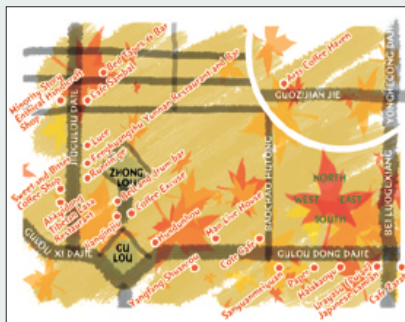


## The soul of la Boheme

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# World of sport

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*It took a year and  
a half for BOCOG to  
accept his inter-plan-  
etary Olympic dream.  
Now, Matthew Josce-  
lyne, three-time Olym-  
pic participant, will  
illuminate the Games  
with his "8 plus 1"  
series of giant globes.*

Photo provided by  
Matthew Joscelyne

Pages 12-13



# Ticketing system crashed by Olympic demand

By He Jianwei

The second phase of Olympic ticket sales was suspended Tuesday after overwhelming demand caused a crash of the booking system.

A new system will be deployed Monday, an official from the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) said at Wednesday's press conference.

The second phase of ticket sales for the Games began Tuesday morning, but was forced to close due to an

unexpected and unprecedented demand. "Within the first hour, from 9 am to 10 am, the official ticketing website of the Beijing Games was viewed 8 million times, and the ticketing hotline was called in excess of 3.8 million times," Rong Jun, director of the BOCOG Ticketing Center, said.

At 1 pm, the ticketing center began work with its contractors to combat the volume of orders, temporarily suspending sales until 5 pm. However, when it resumed, the system

still proved to be unstable, and the center decided to freeze applications at 6 pm.

Statistics show that 43,000 tickets were sold on Tuesday, 90 percent of which were sold through the website.

The overwhelming amount of traffic crashed the ticketing system, and many applicants were unable to submit their applications. Rong apologized on behalf of the BOCOG Ticketing Center for the inconvenience.

"Netizens gave us a lot of criticism mixed with good

suggestions," Rong said, "All our preparation work for the Beijing Olympic Games has had great support, but our system couldn't handle the volume of requests."

Officials confirmed that successful orders placed on Tuesday via the Internet, phone or Bank of China (BOC) branches, will remain valid. Applicants who registered their ID information at BOC branches and call centers on Tuesday will be processed immediately once sales resume.

## Negative Green awards met with concern

By Huang Daohen

Negative examples and controversial figures have made the country's Green Chinese awards list for the first time, the award's organizing committee said Tuesday during its announcement of the nominees.

The 280 nominees include people from various fields and regions in China.

The nominations for controversial example cover Gong Li, one of China's most famous actresses, and Ge You, a popular comedian.

Gong was condemned for giving environmental protection talks at a conference this year while clad in fur.

Ge made the list for endorsing Yilin Wood, which allegedly cheated its investors with a pyramid scheme.

Wang Panpu, secretary-general of the China Environment Culture Promotion Association, the event's organizing committee, explained the reasons for the negative awards Tuesday.

"We hope the naming of negative examples and controversial figures may serve as a warning," Wang said.

"The Green Chinese annual awards, co-sponsored by seven government departments, selects five to ten Chinese people who have made a great contribution towards protecting the environment," Wang said.

The original idea for the negative and controversial award came from last year's nomination of film directors Chen Kaige and Zhang Jizhong, Wang said.

Chen's film *The Promise* damaged the environment near a pristine lake shore in Shangri-la, Yunnan Province, and Zhang's film was blamed for environmental damage in Jiuzhaigou National Park, Sichuan Province.

"Though neither Zhang nor Chen made it to the final list, the Green Chinese award caught public attention last year as a result of the controversial nominations," Wang said.

From September 5 to October 20, as many as 50,000 people voted on this year's nominees via the Internet, mail and telephone.

The awards ceremony will be held on December 12.

## Black car plates swapped for blue

By Jiang Xubo

Foreign motorists in the capital will be issued standard blue civilian license plates instead of their current black plates starting this week under new car plate regulations.

The regulations, which took effect yesterday, will introduce a new series of licenses plates for city vehicles. The new numbers will mix Latin characters with Arabic numerals to create a greater variety of plates, Shen Yuhui, vice chief of the TMB administration office for vehicles, said.

The Traffic Management Bureau (TMB) has not called for immediate plate replacement, instead opting to phase out current plates as car owners renew their registration or apply to have new plates printed.

Foreigners and persons from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan will still have to go to the overseas affairs section of the TMB administration office to apply for plates, the report said.

Black plates marked with the Chinese characters for "embassy" will continue to be issued for embassy cars, the report said.

The TMB introduced the black plates in the mid 1980s to mark cars which belonged to foreign embassies, companies, institutions and foreign individuals, along with motorists from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan.

Cars with black plates can be denied access to certain areas like restricted military zones.

"The new measures nullify the black plate system and award national treatment to foreign persons, companies and organizations, and lift the restrictions attached to such plates," Shen said.

Data from the Exit and Entry Management Section of the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau shows that, as of September, 110,000 foreigners were registered for stays longer than six months.



## Rocket platform rests in museum

The National Museum added a rocket launcher platform, donated by the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology, to its collection Wednesday. The platform, produced in 1989, was used in the Xichang Satellite Launch Center, Sichuan Province, and launched 11 rockets before being retired last February.

CFP Photo

## Income tax rules revised for Guangzhou foreigners

By Huang Daohen

Foreigners and overseas Chinese working in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, are required to provide detailed information on their personal income when declaring taxes according to a new local income tax regulation that took effect yesterday.

The Guangzhou rule will apply to all foreign workers, including those who are involved in education and research, Li Jing, an official with Guangzhou local taxation bureau, said at a news briefing.

Overseas Chinese and people from Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan are also required to make declarations, Li said.

Under the regulations, all foreign workers must declare earnings regardless of how long they have worked in the city.

For people employed locally, the company will be responsible for filing a tax claim. Workers must produce documents to show they are not self-employed or freelancers.

Self-employed people or freelancers are required to declare tax on their own, the regulations said.

The new regulations also detail punishment. Persons who fail to declare income tax on time will be fined 2,000 to 10,000 yuan. Persons who falsify their claims may be fined up to 50,000 yuan.

Li said many foreigners pay taxes in full and on time, but others

are reluctant or evade payments.

The move follows an order by the State Administration of Taxation (SAT) earlier this year, which requires local taxation authorities to establish a personal information system for foreigners.

Foreigners working in companies, social organizations or government departments must have personal file, SAT officials said.

Beijing Taxation Bureau officials said no changes have been made to foreigners' tax regulations.

Foreigners working in Beijing have a personal income tax cutoff point of 4,800 yuan, according to a revised law on personal income tax which took effect at the beginning of last year.

## Brief news

### Beijing's GDP grows

Beijing's gross domestic product (GDP) during the first three quarters of the year hit a billion yuan, a 12 percent rise over the same period last year, and continuing double-digit growth for the ninth consecutive year, Wang Haiping, vice chief of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Development and Reform, said this week.

### Birth defects more common

The rate of newborn babies with birth defects has risen 40 percent since 2001, Jiang Fan, deputy head of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said in a report this week at conference in Chengdu, Sichuan Province.

(By Jiang Xubo)



# Township market caught selling expired Wal-Mart food

By Jiang Xubo

Local authorities investigated an illegally-run supermarket on the outskirts of Chaoyang District for selling expired food from Wal-Mart's Beijing branches, the *Beijing Times* reported.

Wal-Mart set up an investigation panel shortly after the story broke.

The illegal supermarket, which operated in a Dongba Township courtyard, was shut down by the local government last Friday.

Chen Changlu, 46, from Bazhong, Sichuan Province, rented

the house last September from a local villager to open the market.

He and all his staff disappeared several days before being shut down.

The supermarket allegedly began selling expired food tagged by Wal-Mart China's Zhichunlu branch late last year.

The products, including yogurt, pork and vegetables, were sold at extremely low prices. The market charged 4 yuan per kilogram of pork.

Many of its customers, especially those during the 5-6 am

rush, were local villagers and or nearby migrant farm hands.

A *Beijing Times* reporter regularly witnessed a van with the license plate GW8265 transporting bags of garbage from Wal-Mart's branch at Zhichunlu Road in Haidian District to the illegal supermarket at night.

Huang Li, a spokesman for Wal-Mart China in Beijing, denied that the company was aware of the expired food trade and confirmed that the van belonged to the company's garbage processing service provider.

"The store at Zhichunlu Road signed a contract with Beijing Chunqiu Storage and Transportation Company, which is in charge of collecting and destroying the store's garbage, including expired food," Huang told *Beijing Times*.

Huang said the company did not oversee expired food destruction, a responsibility he said he believed lay with the transportation company.

The country's regulations on supermarket food, issued by the Ministry of Commerce at the end

of last year, require that food sellers must keep detailed records of product destruction.

The spokesman said Wal-Mart attaches great importance to the disposal of its expired food, and the company never allows its expired food enter other markets.

The transportation company may face hefty fines if found to have distributed expired food to the supermarket.

Chunqiu company was registered with an address in Miyun Township, which proved to be a civilian residency.

## Worship package cancelled out of conflict

By Jackie Zhang

The Tanzhe Temple (Tanzhesi) has terminated a 5,800-yuan worship package launched in August due to a dispute over the service between the temple and its business arm.

The package provided purchases with ink stones allegedly consecrated at the temple's 1,700th anniversary and the chance to speak with the temple's Abbot about Buddhism and eat dinner with the monks.

The temple, located in Mentougou District, celebrated its 1,700th anniversary last month and is the capital's oldest Buddhist temple.

The Beijing Oriental Milestone Public Relations Company (OMPR) said the service was launched with authorization from both the temple and the Beijing Jingxi Tourism Company (JTC), which took charge of the temple's business operations at the end of August, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported last Sunday.

OMPR canceled the service last week after Changwu, a senior monk and the temple's vice supervisor, denied authorizing the service.

**PR company had good intent**

"We do not know what happened," Wang Haiying, part of the OMPR media relations department, said when asked about the cancellation.

Wang said the temple produces many ink stones, but they don't sell. "Our manager and JTC's are good friends. We launched the service when JTC asked for our help in promoting the ink-stones," she said.

The profits, Wang said, were to go to JTC.

"The Abbot must have known about the service. He even met our guests and talked with them. Now, the vice supervisor is denying having authorized the service," she said, "We are really puzzled."

"The temple opened a website recently, and also launched similar services with price listings online. If they wanted to continue the service themselves, they could have told us," Li Jianming, OMPR's manager, said.

Li said promoting themselves by damaging OMPR's reputation was an "improper" move.

**Temple denies awareness**

In a phone interview on Wednesday, Changwu said that none of the monks in the temple, including the Abbot, knew about the package deal.

"Our Abbot did not know that the guests had paid money. The companies only told him that the guests were important, so he met and talked with them," Changwu said, "JTC had mentioned the service to the Abbot before, but said nothing about charging money."

Changwu also said the ink stones were never consecrated.

"Our temple only has 20 monks. We have neither the time nor energy to produce ink stones. The public relations company handles such matters," he said.

**Operators avoid response**

JTC, which controls the temple's commercial operations, acted as an intermediary between OMPR and the temple.

JTC did not know about the service until participating in the anniversary ceremony, a woman employee at JTC who declined to give her name said.

"The service is canceled, but the issue is not resolved," she said. She said she would ask the manager about a follow-up plan, but as of press time *Beijing Today* has not received a response.

**Fees not for profit**

Tanzhe Temple is one of several temples in the country, such as the Shaolin Temple in Henan Province, which is trying to introduce commercial services.

"From the Buddhist point of view, monks should not engage in commercial operations," Changwu said. He admitted that the temple also sells Buddhist paraphernalia and services, but they never turn a profit.

"The temple is not subsidized by the government. All the money we collect from tickets and services is used to reconstruct or renovate temple buildings and Buddhist images," he said.



## Send in the clowns

The 11th China Wuzhao International Circus Festival started Wednesday evening in Wuzhao, Hebei Province. As many as 15 circuses from nine countries and regions, including Russia, France, the US, Germany and China, will entertain the world audience.

CFP Photo

## Adults play hide-and-seek in city's subways

By Gan Tian

Katherine Liu, a representative for a company based in the World Trade Center, was on her way to the office and about to exit the subway when approached by a man in black.

After a short exchange and mistaken identity, it turned out both were from the Tianya BBS and players in the station's game of hide-and-seek.

Since last month, the capital's middle-class commuters are killing time with a hide-and-seek game spanning the city's subway network.

Netizens interested in playing go online to post their next day's attire and the time they will be at the station, hoping other players at the station may recognize them.

The game was initiated by Guangzhou netizens in mid-October, and has expanded to subway networks in Shanghai and Beijing. Beijing's players are mostly middle-class workers in CBD-area firms.

"We post a time when we may pass through the Guomao Subway Station, since most of us pass through it," Luo Xuening, a programmer, said.

When a player is recognized by another netizen, he or she has won the game, Luo said. "When someone wins, the board is usually very excited. We continue the game the next day," he said.

Though the game has no central organization, Liu said it is running well.

"We (players) are not rich enough to buy a car and have to rent apartments far from our workplace," Liu said, and the game is a way for commuters to get the most out of life in Beijing.

"The game is not only a way for me to relax, but also a good tool for us to know the city and meet our peers," she said.



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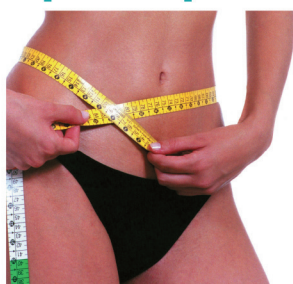
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Web: www.bioscor.com.cn

## Toning and Sculpting Problem Areas by Removing Excess Fat with Liposculpture



### 1. What is Liposculpture?

Liposculpture or laser lipolysis is a clinically proven, innovative technique designed specifically for the removal of excess fat and localised fat deposits, including fatty areas that are normally resistant to dieting and physical exercise. The procedure is performed using an Nd:YAG laser with very short pulses and very high peak of power, in order to avoid tissue heating.

#### Advantages:

- minimally invasive; the

procedure is performed through very small incisions, using 1 mm diameter micro-cannulas

- minimal trauma
- simultaneous coagulation of blood vessels resulting in less blood loss
- laser action also stimulates collagen production, resulting in gradual skin tightening over the treated area
- faster recovery

### 2. Is the treatment safe?

Yes. There are no major side effects. The treatment specifically targets fat cells. The precise positioning of the cannula can be assessed via trans-illumination from a red guiding beam (visible through the skin). There is no damage to major vessels, nerves or other tissue structures, with minimal blood loss.

### 3. Is the treatment suitable for me?

There is no limitation on the area to be treated. Even areas that were previously considered as unsuitable for traditional liposuction, eg face, chin, arms, upper abdomen, and knees, can be treated by laser lipolysis. Localised collections of fatty tissue, for example at the hips, knees, 'love handles', upper or lower abdomen, double chins etc, can be treated with great effect, hence the term 'liposculpture'.

### 4. How long does the treatment take?

The procedure can take 1-2 hours, depending on the area being treated and the amount of fatty tissue present.

### 5. Is the treatment painful? What sort of anaesthesia is used?

The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia (avoiding the risks associated with general anaesthesia), and so is generally painless, although the client will feel movement of the cannula under the skin. Once the local anaesthesia has worn off, mild discomfort may be experienced for 1-2 days, which generally can be controlled with mild oral analgesics eg paracetamol.

### 6. How many treatments will I need?

For localised fat deposits, usually only one treatment session is needed. For larger areas of fat volume, the procedure may be repeated.

### 7. Are the results permanent?

Yes, the resultant effect is permanent (when combined with dietary modification and regular physical exercise) as the laser destroys the cell membrane of the affected fat cells. The released contents of the fat cells are eliminated naturally via the lymphatic system; faster results are seen if gentle

suction is performed at the end of the laser procedure.

### 8. How long is the recovery time?

Most clients can return to work and normal activities within 24 hours of the laser lipolysis procedure. Wearing a comfortable compression garment during the day for a couple of weeks will further minimise any swelling or bruising, and assist in the natural elimination of the released fat cell contents. Faster elimination of the released fat cell contents can also be achieved by promoting lymphatic circulation eg using the Cellu M6 Keymodule system or the Triactive System. It is advisable to avoid strenuous exercise and spa/sauna for two weeks after the procedure.

## Meet our doctor...



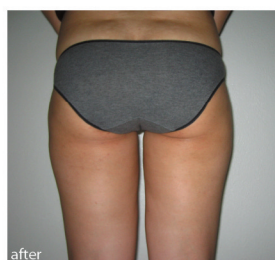
**Dr David Lam**  
Cosmetic Physician  
M.B. B.S. (Sydney),  
First Class Honours

#### Specialises in:

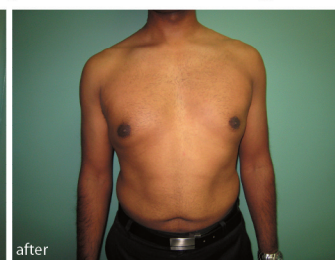
- smartlipo
- "Ultrashape" body contouring via ultrasound fat reduction
- threadlifting
- soft tissue fillers
- botulinum toxin for wrinkles, prominent masseters, eyebrow reshaping, axillary and palmar hyperhidrosis, prominent calves
- pixel skin resurfacing
- lasers/IPL for skin tightening, small vessels, hair removal, skin pigmentation
- laser tattoo removal
- mesotherapy
- chemical peels



before after  
Liposculpture on Hips



before after  
Liposculpture on Male Breast



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# Yunnan to dismantle its current hukou system

Beginning on January 1 of next year, the system of rural and non-rural *hukou* classification will be abolished throughout the province, the provincial government announced recently.

This reform of the system currently in use will enable millions to legally move and integrate into cities for the first time. Applicants will be granted residential permits in their city of choice if they can provide proof of legal residence.

The previous hukou system will be replaced by a new unified residential registration system known as *yiyuanzhi*, or "one-component system" that is expected to have major demographic ramifications on Yunnan's larger and more affluent cities.

Currently, Kunming and other cities including Yuxi, Qujing and Dali have a substantial and

uncounted population of technically illegal residents with rural hukou, or residential registration, that have relocated to the cities from the Yunnan countryside.

Most members of this demographic typically move to these cities to work or search for a job and are ineligible for social benefits provided by the cities where they live.

Under the current hukou system, employers of these people must pay the local government social security taxes for benefits which cannot legally be given to people without a Kunming hukou. Furthermore, children of couples that do not hold Kunming hukou are ineligible to attend school in Kunming – even if both parents live and work in the city.

(Agencies)

## Expert comment:

*"The nation's decades-long household registration system, which divides the population into urban and rural residents, is on its way of reform at the provincial level. We shall hail it." Dang Guoying, a scholar with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said*

*Because China's social welfare and health care systems are based on the household registration system, rural residents working in the city have little access to social welfare and suffer restrictions on access to public services such as education, medical care, housing and employment, Dang said.*

*The professor said the new system will cause city populations of cities to grow via the absorption of these shadow populations into official population statistics. It will also facilitate the migration of more of the province's rural populace into existing urban centers.*

*Students of universities, colleges and technical schools, will also benefit from the new system. The students will be allowed to register locally upon entering school, Dang said.*

*However, he pointed out that the pressure to find employment will be higher after graduation.*

(By Huang Daohen)

## Wealthy families on the rise

China has the world's fifth largest number of households with more than US \$1 million in liquid assets, trailing only the US, Japan, Britain and Germany, report released by the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) on Tuesday said.

The number of such Chinese households reached 310,000 by the end of 2006 up from 124,000 in 2001, more than 48,000 of which have more than US \$5 million in liquid assets.

Given China's continuous and rapid economic growth, the report also predicted the number to double by 2011, reaching 609,000.

These households, which only account for 0.1 percent of the total number of households in China, possess about 41 percent of the country's total wealth, said the report.

Meanwhile, the number of wealthy families, those with financial assets worth US \$100,000 to \$1 million and which is equivalent to China's middle class, is also expanding, according to the report.

BCG forecasts the number of wealthy families in China will rise to 6.4 million by 2011 from the current 3.25 million.

"It is good news that China's wealth, though highly-concentrated, is being distributed among a wider band," Tjun Tang, partner of BCG, said at a press conference in Beijing. He added that households with more than US \$100 million are very rare in China, but in India, are more common and own a larger percentage of the country's wealth.

Largely because of a robust investment rise, high savings rates and the dynamic GDP growth, China has become the second largest private banking market after Japan, with US \$2.5 trillion in total household financial assets, excluding real estate assets and assets from industries.

(Agencies)



## Halloween becomes popular in China

*Wearing a mask, a child goes "trick or treating" with his friends in Xiamen, Fujian Province. One of the world's oldest holidays, Halloween, has become popular in China in recent years.*

CFP Photo

## Gov approves new food safety law

(AFP) – The Chinese government approved in principle on Wednesday a new food safety law aimed at raising standards at every level of production, a senior official said.

The quality of Chinese goods has come under international scrutiny following scandals involving products ranging from toothpaste and pet food to toys and fish.

The State Council, or cabinet,

has now approved the food safety law and it will be passed to the parliament for the final nod, product quality watchdog chief Li Changjiang told World Health Organization head Margaret Chan.

"This law totally covers how to standardize our food products' production, processing, sale and supervision," Li told reporters. "I believe that the promulgation of this law will

certainly effectively raise China's food safety situation and guarantee food safety and people's health."

The law mandates better release of information about food safety issues, higher fines for wayward firms and punishment of officials who act irresponsibly, and guarantees the public's right to compensation and to sue, the central government said on its website.

## Export licences of 764 toy makers pulled

(Reuters) – China suspended the export licences of 764 toy manufacturers in Guangdong Province last month because of quality problems, Xinhua reported Thursday.

The Guangdong Quality Technology Supervision Administration conducted a province-wide investigation into the quality and safety of toys, food and other

products on Wednesday, the *China Daily* reported.

"Officials investigated 1,726 toy factories, almost 85 percent of the province's total, that had obtained quality certifications for exporting products," it reported. "Because of various quality problems, 764 factories had their certificates revoked or suspended."

But as many as 99 percent of export products from Guangdong were up to standard, Lai Tiansheng, director of the administration, was quoted as saying.

More than 20 million toys made in China have been recalled worldwide over the past four months due to potentially dangerous levels of lead and hazards posed by small magnets.

## Crackdown ordered on rush for rare white jade

(Reuters) – Authorities in northwestern China have ordered a crackdown on private mining of a precious jade whose soaring value in local markets has lured thousands of people to a remote river to extract it.

The value of white Hotan jade, a rare nephrite jade found in alluvial deposits along the Yurungkax river in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and prized in China for centuries, has exploded in recent years, fuelled by speculators and its increasing scarcity.

Trading at about 40 times the value of gold, the jade has drawn about 100,000 people and thousands of earth-moving vehicles to the Yurungkax, the *Beijing News* reported Tuesday, citing an investigative report on China Central Television.

The rush has impoverished many villagers who had formed collectives and spent vast sums in unsuccessful attempts to find the jade, the paper reported.

"They had already spent a long time digging but had not found any jade, and the significant expenses for earth-moving equipment and workers were proving difficult to bear," it reported, citing local villagers.

The situation had prompted authorities to issue a notice to "clean up" the phenomenon, and slap fines of up to 10,000 yuan (US \$1,300) on private prospectors who ignored orders to withdraw from the river.

## Northern city bans seductive marriage ads

(Reuters) – A northern Chinese city has banned the use of seductive words like "foxy lady," "handsome guy" and "moneybags" in marriage advertisements in a bid to stamp out fraud, domestic media reported Tuesday.

Many Chinese people still go to marriage brokers to arrange suitable life partners for their children, and often turn to adverts carried in newspapers, magazines and on the Internet.

But after a series of complaints from people who said they had been cheated – although how was not explained – Henan provincial capital Zhengzhou is reigning in the industry, the *Beijing News* reported.

From November 1, marriage brokers will need to have the content of their adverts approved by the city government and risk being banned for life if they snub the new rules, it added.

Promises to arrange marriages to foreigners are also banned, as are marriage adverts dressed up as solicitations to simply find friends or travel partners, the report said.



# Gov moves to ease friction over auto exports

(AP) — China will move to ease friction over its auto exports to avoid the trouble it faces in other industries, an economic planner said Tuesday, noting the need to adjust trade and investment policies to reflect changes in the industry.

"In the next three years, the government will be taking measures to reduce trade friction. We are taking lessons from Japan on how to reduce such conflicts," Chen Jianguo, deputy inspector of the industrial department of China's National Development and Reform Commission, said.

China's automakers are just

beginning to target markets in Europe and North America with products of their own, but policy makers in Beijing are already bracing for a backlash - given the tensions over China's exports of other countless products.

"Government policy will change according to market trends," Chen, whose commission is Beijing's main economic planning agency, told an industry conference in Shanghai.

Chen said he expects Chinese automakers to begin setting up operations in developed overseas markets, such as Europe and North America and to shift away

from reliance on joint ventures by joining "global alliances."

With government encouragement, Chinese automakers are ramping up overseas sales, seeking to expand beyond their own hyper-competitive market. They sold 325,000 vehicles abroad last year, mostly low-cost trucks and buses shipped to developing countries.

So far, efforts to expand passenger car sales and production overseas have provoked a backlash in some markets. Geely Group Ltd., one of the largest privately owned automakers, saw its plans for auto assembly plants in Malaysia rebuffed last year.

Inside China, increasingly fierce competition has brought China's auto industry to a crossroads, as foreign manufacturers and their domestic joint venture partners struggle to reconcile cooperation with competition. Many in the industry agree on the need for changes in government policies drafted to nurture the auto sector during its infancy.

"The role of the government is still evolving. We need to change it to support growth of the industry in a new stage of development," Shen Ningwu, deputy head of the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers, said.

## Country to relax forex outflows

(XFN-ASIA) — China's foreign exchange regulator said it will continue to relax curbs on foreign exchange outflows.

In a statement on its website, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) also said that it will continue to strictly control short-term foreign exchange inflows.

Rising asset prices are attracting further foreign exchange inflows, it said, adding that it is concerned that a drop in asset prices could lead to capital flight.

It also said that rising asset prices are more of an attraction to foreign exchange inflows than an appreciating currency or domestic interest rate levels.

The foreign exchange regulator stated that it is studying the possibility of allowing overseas institutions to raise yuan funds in China, buy foreign exchange and then remit the funds offshore.

In the past, Beijing has allowed two multilateral agencies — International Finance Corp and the Asian Development Bank — to issue yuan denominated bonds in China on the condition, the proceeds be used within China.

In the statement, the regulator also said that China's capital and financial account surplus stood at about 90 billion for the first half.

Within the current account surplus, China had a merchandise trade surplus almost US \$13.5 billion and a services trade deficit of US \$3 billion, the regulator said.

In the capital and financial account surplus, capital account net inflow stood at US \$1.5 billion, while direct investments net inflow accounted for US \$51 billion, it said.



## Capital's first McDrive-Thru opens

A McDonald's employee passes a tray to a driver at its new drive-thru in Beijing.

CFP Photo

## GM to open fuel research center in China

(AP) — General Motors announced Monday it would set up a US \$250 million alternative fuel research center in Shanghai.

"We believe China has the potential to become a leader in the adoption of alternative propulsion systems," GM CEO Rick Wagoner said.

CNN's Charles Hodson spoke with Peter Dixon of Commerzbank about the spike in oil prices.

He said construction of the first phase of "The General Motors Center for Advanced Science and Research" would be finished late next year.

Wagoner also announced that GM would make a US \$5

million grant to set up "The China Automotive Energy Research Center" along with Tsinghua University and Shanghai Automotive Industries (SAIC). It will be based at the Beijing campus of the university.

Wagoner made the announcements along with Chen Hong, the president of SAIC, and He Jianqin, Tsinghua's executive vice president. SAIC is a local partner of General Motors and Volkswagen.

He said GM picked China for the research center because of the country's fast-growing vehicle market and the government's push to develop alternative energy sources.

## Staples and UPS launch co-branded stores

(Reuters) — Staples Inc and United Parcel Service Inc are launching co-branded stores in China, the companies said on Monday.

The first two stores, called Staples UPS Express, opened today in Beijing, and two addi-

tional locations are expected to open in Shanghai by the end of 2007, they said.

The stores combine office supplies and document processing services from Staples with packaging and international shipping services from UPS.

## China Netcom to open London headquarters

China Netcom, China's second-largest fixed-line telephone company, opened a London office on Thursday that will be its European headquarters.

China Netcom is looking to use its global telecoms network to serve the voice and data needs of Chinese companies with operations in Europe, said a person familiar with the situation. It also wants to serve the telecoms needs of European companies with operations in China.

The move by China Netcom is part of efforts by Chinese companies to expand overseas under the Beijing government's "go global" policy. The government wants to ensure that Chinese companies can compete with US, Japanese and European companies. The London office will be opened by Jidong Zhao, China Netcom's senior vice-president.

Its efforts to serve the voice and data needs of multinationals will pit it against European and US telecoms companies such as BT, AT&T and Verizon Communications.

## StanChart plans to launch China village bank

(XFN-Asia) — Asia-focused bank Standard Chartered plans to launch its first China village bank in early 2008 to tap the country's growing rural economy, sources close to the situation said on Wednesday.

London-based StanChart's first China village bank is expected to be based in Inner Mongolia, where farming, mining and dairy are the three major contributors to the local economy, said the sources, who declined to be identified.

The Chinese government is trying to stimulate investment in the countryside to reduce a rising income gap with the cities, but most rural residents and businesses have great difficulty accessing credit.

StanChart, an emerging markets specialist that won approval for local incorporation this year in the nation's long-restricted banking market, is now hiring managers and staff for the Inner Mongolia-based village bank, the sources said.

In August, StanChart's bigger rival, HSBC Holding Plc, launched a village bank in Hubei Province after winning the first such bank licence given to a foreign bank.

## CNP to build refinery in Costa Rica

(XFN-ASIA) — China National Petroleum Corp, the parent of PetroChina, plans to build a refinery in Costa Rica which will supply Central American markets, the official *Shanghai Securities News* reported, citing company sources.

The agreement was concluded during the visit of Costa Rica President Oscar Arias Sanchez to China last week, the paper said. No financial details were provided.

The deal marks CNPC's first overseas integrated upstream and downstream project, the paper said.

The report said the refinery will process heavy oil from Venezuela.

In August 2006, CNPC agreed to a tieup with Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA involving the establishment of a joint venture to develop a block in the Junin area of the Orinoco oil field.

The two companies will also jointly explore an oil field in Venezuela's Sumano region.



# GPS monitoring employees an invasion of privacy?

By Gan Tian

Li Fushi, an employee in Zhengzhou Guangming Milk, sued his company to Zhongyuan People's Court in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, Tuesday, stating that the company had invaded his privacy by monitoring his position with a GPS mobile phone outside working hours.

Li was the sales manager for the aforementioned company. In December 2002, the company equipped him and other 20 employees with a GPS-enabled mobile phone and demanded the phone be turned

on all day.

At first Li didn't accept this, but the company took a 500 yuan deposit for the phone. All the employees had an agreement with the company that the position-location system should never be used when off duty.

Li was annoyed when his mobile began making noises in January. He realized it was his company monitoring him. He felt stressed and disturbed, and was fired three days later. Li took his case to court immediately.

Li said the company

invaded his privacy by checking his location and brought lots of trouble to his personal life. He demanded a 942-yuan settlement payment and an apology from the company.

However, the company fought back saying that the employer has the right to know the whereabouts of its staff, especially sales staff. The company claimed it did not advertise the employee's location outside so it did not intrude on anyone's personal privacy.

The court chose to delay issuing a verdict.

## Comment

### Indeed an intrusion

Of course, the company intruded on Li's privacy. Companies should be more respectful nowadays.

— Xue Yuebo

### Wrong way

I think the system is fine. You can see the company agreed only to use this system during working hours. The only negative thing is that the company used its system improperly. Yes, it is a good way to know whether your

employees are working or not, but give them more freedom after work.

— Useless system

It's a useless system. I can place my mobile phone in one area, leave that area and claim that the client took up a lot of my time. I don't know whether this Li character is stupid or if it is the company. This company should spend more time improving its management skills to spark the employee's interest,

rather than use this stupid "inspecting" method.

— Net Crazy

### Only a method

I myself am a sales manager. I know that there are a lot of employees taking their company's money and going home to sleep during working hours. I think there should be a guaranteed way to prevent this from happening. Until that occurs, I believe that the GPS system is a good method.

— Mooncaker



## Robocop takes on rabies?

Zhengzhou city, Henan Province, organized a special team with armor and gun to combat unlicensed pet dogs in an effort to wipe out rabies.

Photo provided by Jinbw.com

## Hunting for hubbies before graduation

By Huang Daohen

Many dating and marriage agencies in Dongguan, Guangdong province, have seen their business boom as more and more female senior students show a preference for finding a rich husband before graduation, local media reported.

The report said that as graduation approaches, more senior college students choose to enter the relationship market instead of preparing for job-hunting.

Most are female students and want to date a rich man before they graduate next July. Some of them have set a goal of marrying upon graduation if they find the right beau, the report said.

"I've attended several large-scale recruitment fairs, but the job availability is sparse and the competition is fierce. The salaries are also low," Chen Hua (anonymous), a student majoring in computer technology, said.

Chen is among those seniors busy hunting for an ideal husband. She mentioned one of her roommates who has a boyfriend who has worked for years and now has his own house and car in the city with a salary of 10,000 yuan per month.

"She plans to marry after graduation and become a full-time housewife," Chen said. "This kind of life is much better than rushing about outside everyday. So I decided to come here."

Fierce competition and heavy employment pressure are some of the probable explanations why so many female students are placing their hopes in finding a rich man



Masses of job seekers during a job fair held this year in Beijing. Fierce competition causes many female students to seek hubbies before graduation.

IC Photo

rather than a good job before finishing school.

According to new statistics released by the Ministry of Education on Wednesday, almost 30 percent of this year's university graduates had failed to find a job by the end of September. Five million students graduated this year, but 1.44 million of them are still unemployed.

The abnormal phenomenon of putting more importance on finding a rich boyfriend or husband than a good job has created hot debate amongst many female university students in Dongguan.

## Comment

### Pity for money centered

I pity these girls! They worship money not love.

— Jeff

### It's retreatism

I should say it is a case of retreatism for female seniors to search for a rich husband upon graduation. Compared with boys, girls are inclined to retreat before difficulties set in.

— Ma Linhui

### A proper action

It might be a proper action in terms of being realistic. I am graduating this year, and am very aware of the tense situation regarding employment. A college education now brings no guarantees and graduates

want a nicer work environment with a relatively high salary. That's a problem.

— Wendy Chen

### Work from the bottom up

One must work from the bottom up instead of relying on others. As you gain experience, your salary will increase. The message that should be sent to college students is to be innovative and creative.

— Lao Wu

### A family tragedy

It's more likely that the family will end up in a mess too if the girls get married quickly. A family unit should be based on love and understanding.

— Henry Zhang



# Eight expat Olympic torchbearer nominees announced

By Han Manman

Lenovo, PC maker and sponsor of the 2008 Olympic Torch Relay, announced today the names of eight expats living in China as torchbearers nominated for next year's Olympic torch relay.

The eight nominees represent a broad range of backgrounds, nationalities and occupations, from a high-speed railway engineer to a middle school student.

The eight nominees were selected from 262 applicants from 47 countries. Many of the top voted went to great lengths – including mobilizing support through social-networking websites, radio call-in shows and letter-writing campaigns – for a chance to become a part of Olympic history.

The official torch lighting will take place in Olympia, Greece,

in March 2008. The torch will travel through 21 cities on five continents including London, Paris, San Francisco, Canberra, Mumbai and Nagano, followed by Hong Kong and Macau, before spending 97 days in the Chinese mainland to arrive at its final destination in Beijing on August 8, 2008, marking the start of the Beijing Olympic Games.

The nominees are Jenny Bowen (US), who founded the Half the Sky Foundation, a non-profit group offering nurture and enrichment programs to children living in 35 orphanages across China in 1998; Marcos Antonio Torres (Philippines), a marketing manager for a Beijing design company; Werner Ebel (Germany), a sports enthusiast and railroad engineer working on a high-speed

railway project in Zhengzhou, Henan Province; Meena Barot (India), business manager at the China Representative Office of an Indian pharmaceutical company; Yoshitoshi Mizuya (Japan), winner of both the Beijing Marathon and the Xi'an City Wall Marathon among foreign runners; Luis Hong-Sanchez (Colombia), currently attending a local Chinese middle school; Yuri Ilyakhin (Russia), who came to Beijing in 1984 as a journalist; and has worked as a translator of classical literature and Song poetry; Deirdre Smyth (UK/Venezuela), a mother of four and a breast cancer survivor. Smyth hopes to use her opportunity as a torchbearer to promote awareness of breast cancer and give hope to those suffering from the disease.

## Shangri-La to host China's first cross-country ski tour

By Han Manman

The world's elite cross-country skiers will gather in China to participate in the Tour de Ski China, which will be held from December 28 to January 4 in three of the national cities, the Chinese Ski Association announced last week.

Shangri-La, in Diqing County, Yunnan Province, will be the host city for the first of four stages in this ski series that starts on

December 28.

Yang Min, vice governor of Diqing, said it is the first time for them to host this ski event at such a high altitude. 3,200 meters above sea level.

After the first stop in Shangri-La, the second stop will be Chang Chun, followed by Inner Mongolia, Ren Hongguo, vice director of the Chinese Winter Sports Administrative Centre, said.

"Over 100 professional athletes are expected to participate with 40 of them ranked in the International Ski Federation top 100 skiers. At least two world champions will also join the China tour," Ren said.

With high ambitions to attend the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, the Chinese national cross-country skiing team, led by Swedish coach Per-Erik Ronnestrand, will use this important opportunity to accumulate international scores, he said.

Organized by the Chinese Ski Association and Swedish sports and event production company Nordic Ways, it is the first ever international cross-country ski tour held in China.



Miguel Trapga

Photo provided by Beijing Institute Cervantes

## Spanish guitarist gives classical recital in Beijing

By Gan Tian

Spanish classical guitarist Miguel Trapga performed a recital last night at Beijing Institute Cervantes, in which he played the masterpieces of Mario Castelnuovo Tedesco, Joaquín Turina, Jorge Gómez Crespo, Alexander Tansman and many other famous musicians, accompanied by a series of Spanish guitar melodies.

Trapaga arrived in Beijing Wednesday evening and performed last night. He said music should come from within.

"The music, especially classical music, can help us find peace in our hearts, and give us inspiration," he said.

The guitarist will give a master class open to the public at 6 pm at the institute. He will bring ideas from his course "Real Conservatorio Superior de Musica de Madrid" running in his own country and other countries. Tomorrow, he will perform in the Forbidden City.

The 40-year-old player has toured Moscow, Istanbul, Dublin, Santiago, Warsaw, Montevideo. His goal is to spread classical guitar music to China, Japan, the Philippines and Singapore.

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# EU 'Blue Card' to attract skilled workers

By Han Manman

The European Union (EU) unveiled plans last week to launch a "Blue Card" program to attract skilled workers, especially from Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The system, proposed by the EU's executive arm, is similar to the US Green Card program, and would entitle prospective immigrants with three years of work experience or a university degree to work in a member state under "fast-track" immigration reforms.

Immigrants with a Blue Card would be fast-tracked through the 20 complex national proce-

dures necessary to obtain residency and a work permit.

The two-year renewable work permit would be valid throughout the EU, and holders would have a right to the same social and other employment benefits as EU citizens. After a two-year freeze, holders could move to another EU member state to find further employment opportunities.

However, some restrictions would remain. Immigrants would need to show a recognized diploma, have at least three years of professional experience and a job offer which could not be filled by an EU

citizen. Applicants would need to show that the salary they earn will be three times above the country's minimum wage.

Most importantly, the Blue Card would not offer permanent legal rights to stay in the EU.

"To maintain and improve economic growth in the EU, it is essential for Europe to become a magnet for the highly skilled. Qualified and highly qualified migrants prefer the US, Canada and Australia," a spokesman for the European Commission said.

Franco Frattini, EU commissioner in charge of immigration

issues said EU statistics showed that non-EU experts accounted for only one percent of all EU workers, compared with ten percent in Australia, about seven percent in Canada and nearly four percent in the US.

"We must work hard to make the EU an attractive destination for such people. To do so, the EU must present a united front, rather than emphasize the immigration policies of each member state," the commission's spokesman said.

The proposals must be approved by all 27 EU member states to take effect.



Philippe Guillet (middle), a French expert, visits the China Science and Technology Museum with trainees. Photo provided by CAFA

## French experts teach heritage protection

By Jiang Xubo

Four experts from French museums trained 20 Chinese museum professionals in ways to protect cultural heritage last week in Beijing at the Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA).

The Institute National du Patrimoine (INP) led the program, launched by CAFA and INP and supported by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the French embassy.

Participants were instructed in ways to better manage folk art museums and natural history museums in the context of rapid development.

The session offered more than campus lectures. Museums across the capital, including the Dongyue Temple, the Capital Museum and the Beijing Museum of Natural History, hosted on-site classes where trainees shared experiences in repair and protection of heritage, operation of museums and ways to better service the public.

"Cultural heritage used to give way to modern development. My country also saw such a sad period," Genevieve Gallot, director of INP, said. She said modernization and cultural heritage aren't necessarily opposed.

Beijing has abundant cultural heritage that needs to be preserved and passed to the next generation, she said. "That's part of today's people's responsibility," Gallot said.

The program has conducted seven training sessions since late 2003 to educate as many as 400 young professionals.

"The project serves as a bridge for the two countries to share their ideas in protecting cultural heritage," Gallot said. In 2003, only base stones were laid, but with each session, the bridge gets closer and closer to being complete, she said.

INP, formerly known as the Ecole Nationale du Patrimoine, founded in 1990, was a public administrative establishment governed by the French Ministry of Culture and Communication.

The Institute has a tradition of cooperation and partnership with overseas heritage agencies.



CFP Photo

## Turkish tradition shown in culture week

By Han Manman

The first ever Turkish Cultural Week, organized by the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Turkish embassy, drew to a close Wednesday.

Traditional Turkish activities such as folk dances, traditional handicrafts, handicrafts by artisans from Turkey and samples of Turkish cuisine were presented at the Beijing Folk Museum during the week.

The week coincided with the 84th anniversary of the founding of the Turkish Republic on Monday.

Turkey's Ambassador to China Oktay Ozuye attended the opening ceremony.

## China, UK strengthen education partnership



John Denham meeting journalists after Education Summit.

Photo provided by British Council

By Jackie Zhang

The UK's newly-appointed Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills John Denham made his first China visit this week with education the number one item on his agenda.

Tuesday, he attended the

opening ceremony for the Beijing UK Research Council (UKRC), the research advisory organization's first branch outside Europe.

UKRC comprises seven councils, each of which funds research and postgraduate train-

ing in natural science, engineering and the humanities.

The new branch is intended to bring scientists from the two countries together to answer the world's biggest problems: curing disease, developing renewable energy and saving the planet, Denham said.

He also led the third Sino-UK Education Summit, held Monday, with Zhou Ji, Chinese minister of education.

"The UK has pursued an innovative approach to the education and training sector via vocational and higher education and lifelong learning. We need to go further," Denham said.

The new Memorandum of Understanding on Sino-UK Strategic Collaboration in Higher Education signed today reflects a commitment to cooperation on the quality assurance of joint courses, he said, aiming to boost

employability and entrepreneurship in both countries.

Employability is about more than educating individuals and giving them the skills to meet business needs, Denham said.

The UK has released money to five UK higher education institutions to seek partnerships with Chinese universities and examine unemployment, he said.

"Both countries will cooperate to give graduates the practical work experience our job markets require," Denham said, noting that more and more employers focus less on graduates' knowledge and educational background, and more on soft skills, team work awareness and academic skills.

He left for Xi'an as part of the Education Summit on Wednesday, and will visit Shanghai and Suzhou, before returning to the UK tomorrow.



# Club Beautiful explores local market segment of Facebook phenomenon

By Annie Wei

Nothing online is as popular as Facebook in this community. The Facebook China network has as many as 107,000 members, mainly expats having something to do with China and locals socializing in the international crowd.

## Are you beautiful enough?

The Chinese mainland does not have any social networking website as successful as Facebook yet. However, a new but small one, Club Beautiful, was recently launched. It is based in Beijing and targets members ages 18 to 35. It has become a hot topic in the community because of its daring slogan, "Are you beautiful enough?"

Jesper Lodahl, 33, is the former Danish cellphone-engineer-turned entrepreneur with a strategic consulting company to Clubbeautiful.cn. It is a social networking website with 500 members, with the majority being locals.

"Two years ago, our Chinese business partners looked into what to do in China," Lodahl said. He read a Danish newspaper talking about the expanding Chinese population and online dating numbers. After research, they found traditional Chinese dating websites like baihe.com had a membership of over eight million, while others had five million more or less. "There is huge database out there and it takes a lot of time for a person to find an ideal match," he said.

To narrow down the market, they found a special theme for this website: a platform for beautiful, attractive and interesting people. To ensure the quality of its members, anyone, either male or female, has to submit his or her photo to be judged by current members. If



Jesper Lodahl (second from left), Chen Xiao (third from left) and other members celebrate Chen's winning in the party's hottest contest.



Club members join summer love party. Photos provided by Nancy

50 percent of the members vote "Yes, beautiful" to a new application, then he or she will be in; otherwise, he or she will be rejected, but can reapply with a better picture and profile text.

## Member experience

Sound superficial?

Lodahl and his team do not think so. Living in China for three years, he noticed that Chinese people care very much about their image, especially the younger generation. The end result is always a combination of physical appearance and interesting personalities.

Chen Xiao, 25, a Beijing man in the IT industry, is regarded as one of the most beautiful male members in the club.

"I stumbled upon this club in a September outdoor event in Beijing," Chen said, "I talked to some of the staff members and joined the club." The best part of Club Beautiful is that a newcomer can only join with the approval of existing members, Chen said.

"There are so many social networking websites in China now," Chen said, "But it's hard to find one with a really interesting theme. Most of the websites are very easy to join and were hard to find people you really wanted to hang out with."

Chen said he had not attended this club's big events, but opted for the smaller ones. "The good thing is that the other members I met fit their profile photos and descriptions," He also asked his friends to register, "Not every friend, just those I thought would fit this website," he said.

## Challenges from Chinese market

Since taobao.com beat eBay China, IT experts are expecting more social networking websites, big and small, to appear. Facebook, Myspace, Chinaren or smaller ones like douban are exploring the possibilities in the market.

Difficulties and challenges are foreseen, such as the majority of Chinese online users are comparatively younger, have lower-incomes and are less educated, unlike mid- to high-end users in the US and Europe, according to a blog posting at *Ogilvy digital watch* in July.

Many interviewed locals said they never heard of Facebook and the culture in China is very different from that of western countries.

Lodahl mentioned data he found particularly interesting in China: about 47 percent of the profiles online are either untrue, fake or partly fake, according to the data from Irearch, an IT researching company. But Club Beautiful claims to have tools that enable its users to check if profiles are trustworthy or not.

Lodahl thinks it is natural for a transformation period in China. "When dating online becomes widely accepted, everyone will have his or her personal profile online."

The managing director consulting company for Club Beautiful, Lodahl had a successful personal experience when he met his current wife on online five years ago in Denmark. Now, they have a five-month-old daughter.

The club's marketing staff, Nancy, with her Chinese name Yu Guo, 21, has just returned from New York. "Chinese online users are not as conservative as you might think. Going online is a wonderful way to meet new friends and communicate. The first thing I do when I come to work is check out the new applications," she said. "You get addicted to it."

## Expats' walking carnival wasn't blown

By Han Manman

Despite cold temperatures and strong winds last Sunday, 100 walking fans gathered in Beijing Pinnacle Plaza to participate in the 10 and 20 kilometer walking competitions.

For this hiking carnival, a family is considered a team. Individuals were placed into teams by the organizer. All participants who completed the route were given walking certificates.

A lady surnamed Zhao carried a baby bassinet with her beloved dog named "Xiao Er" attracted attention. "Xiao Er is like my son, I want to walk with him. However, he is 12 years old, and cannot walk the long distance," Zhao said.

Another team who participated in the 10 kilometers competition was a British family with two lovely daughters. The younger one, Samantha, at only



A British family signs up for the walk.

Photo provided by Beijing Today Walking Center

four years old, was the youngest among all the participants. "Samantha has never walked 10 kilometers before, but we wanted to let her try," her father said.

Under the theme of "Walk for fun - Walk with the Olympics - Walking to explore your neighborhood," the event is the first of its kind organized by the China Volkssport Association and the Beijing Today Walking Center.

## Events

### China Road: A book chat by Rob Gifford

China Road, developed from a radio series for National Public Radio, took journalist Rob Gifford on a 4,800 kilometer journey from the Bund in Shanghai to China's border with Kazakhstan. Gifford documents his interviews and chance encounters with Chinese citizens from across an amazingly varied spectrum, China Road paints a striking portrait of contemporary China.

Where: The Bookworm, Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang

When: November 12, 7:30 pm  
Tel: 6586 9507

### Lecture: Trees and Plants of South China

Rhona Baptiste, Caribbean journalist from Trinidad and Tobago who has been teaching in China for the past ten years, will give a talk on her book *Trees and Flowering Plants of South China*.

Where: Room 201, Chinese Culture Club, Kent Center, No 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: November 7, 7:30 pm - 9 pm

Cost: 30 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341 (Monday-Friday, 9 am - 6 pm), 6432 1041 (weekday mornings and evenings; and weekend, rerouted to mobile phone)

### Traces of Eunuchs in the Western Suburbs of Beijing

Michael Crook takes you on a search for evidence of eunuchs in the village of Moshikou, in the western suburbs of Beijing. Said to have numbered in the tens of thousands during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), eunuchs effectively controlled a full range of palace services and supply responsibilities, giving many of them vast powers and wealth and, in some cases, encroaching on imperial power. The outings are limited to current Beijing International Society members.

Where: meet at South Gate Ritan Park, 6 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyangmen Wai, Chaoyang

When: November 3, 8 am - 3 pm bus leaves at 8:30 am  
Tel: 8449 9802

### Lecture: How communication sharpens competitiveness for Nordic firms internationally

The Swedish Chamber of Commerce is hosting a breakfast meeting with the Executive Chairman of Kreab Group, Peje Emilsson. Kreab is a strategic communications consultant specializing in corporate and financial communications and public affairs.

Where: Ballroom 1, Radisson SAS Hotel, A6 Donglu, North Three Ring Road, Chaoyang

When: November 8, 8 am - 9:30 am

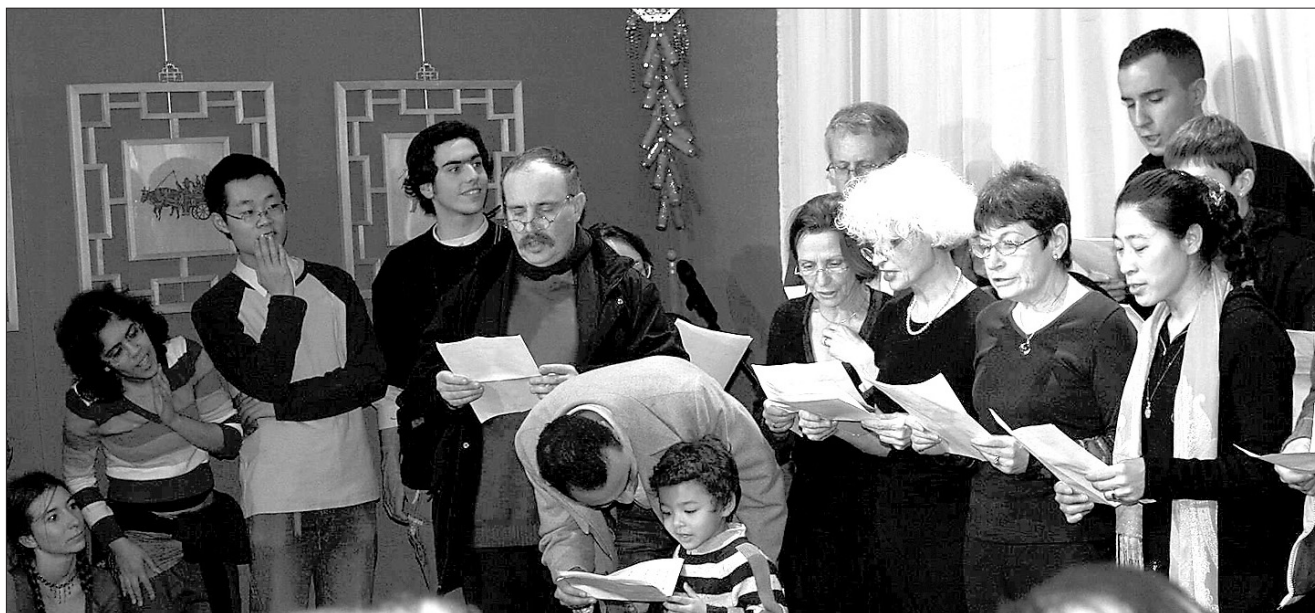
Cost: free for members, 200 yuan for non-members

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(By He Jianwei)



# Chinese test for younger learners available soon



French people of all ages learning to sing Chinese songs.

CFP Photo

By Jackie Zhang

With the number of people studying and sitting the HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi) around the world increasing, foreign kids now have their own hanyu examination.

Starting next month, children in Beijing can attend a YCT (Chinese Test for Young Learners) to test their level of Chinese study.

The YCT is designed by the Office of Chinese Language Council International, or Hanban for children under 15 whose mother language is not Chinese.

Last year, the YCT was launched in Singapore, and since has open to children in South Korea and Canada.

In South Korea, the YCT was held in May and September. As many as 2,500 children partici-

pated in September. Next month, YCT will hold its third examination in South Korea and also start its first in the US. Children in Thailand will be able to take the examination in December.

In China, the first examination will take place next month at Fangcaodi Primary School in Chaoyang District.

"The examination, including an oral, listening and writing test, is divided into three levels for different groups of kids," Qiu Ning, director of examination department from Hanban said.

"There is a basic introduction of the examination to help children decide which level of the YCT they should take. Children who have learned Chinese for around 150 hours and know 500 characters can take

the YCT level 1 examination. Those who have learned Chinese for 250 hours and know about 1,100 characters can take the YCT level 2 examination. Kids who have learned Chinese for 400 hours and know about 1,700 characters can take part in the highest level examination," Qiu said.

Qiu said these tests were only a kind of instructive description. Children can sign up for the YCT according to what best suits them. "But the examination fee in Beijing has not been decided yet," Qiu said.

Beijing International Chinese College (BICC) is responsible for the practical operation of the YCT in Beijing. It has launched special training for children who want to take the exam. Participants who want to

improve their level or who have not learned Chinese before can choose to take these training courses and then sign up for the examination.

"We provide 16 classes for each level of the YCT. The fee is 1,600 yuan for each level," Gui Fan, a teacher from BICC said. "It's not necessary for each participant to take the training courses. Children who have acquired enough Chinese language education can sign up for the YCT directly."

## How to sign up for YCT and training courses

There are two schools available for immediate sign-up.

Beijing International Chinese college: 8812 9622

Fangcaodi Primary School: 8563 5120 ext 2003

## Trees up for public adoption



Expats planting trees near the Great Wall.

CFP Photo

By Annie Wei

The Olympic Memorial Park at Badaling Great Wall is planning on planting 50,000 trees and looking for tree adopters from varied kinds of companies, organizations and individuals, China Green Foundation said this week.

The tree planting event is the first project for a campaign called "Green Olympics, Green China - Beijing 2008 Green Actions." According to Wang Zhibao, director of China Green Foundation, the memorial park located on the northwest side of

the Badaling Great Wall, with an area of 333,500 square meters is an important location for lessening sand storms in Beijing. The planted trees include Chinese pine, white bark pine, caval vine, maple, gingo and fruit trees.

Wang said the best time for planting is autumn and next spring. Adopters can place their names on the trees they adopt and plant. For anyone who is interested, please call China Green Foundation's hotline at 8423 8254, 8423 8981 or the Olympic Memorial Park at 8118 1458.

## Heating trial starts next Wednesday

By Annie Wei

Since the late-autumn rains, the weather turned cold quickly. Although heating officially starts on November 15, Beijing Heating Group (BHG) announced that some of the residential areas would have heat starting November 7.

According to BHG, it takes time to make sure Beijing's whole heating system warms up, therefore, the pre-heating is necessary.

From November 7 to 14 of the pre-heating initiation, residents should inform the compound property management if there is water leaking from their pipes. From November 16, if the temperature of the room is below 16 degrees, you can complain to the BHG at 6581 2389 or 6581 2389.

In Beijing, the majority

of heating is coal-fired. The BHG said that it is reconstructing the gas-turned-heating system and expect that over 40 percent of heating will be from gas. Also, to be environmentally-friendly, government and public buildings are required to maintain temperatures on non-working days.

## Heating office numbers of different districts

Dongcheng: 6404 3393

Xicheng: 6617 6421

Chongwen: 6712 0700

Chaoyang: 6732 0573

Xuanwu: 6352 8948 or

6352 9495

Haidian: 8838 4733 or

8838 4746

Fengtai: 6384 6262

Shijingshan: 6887 5444

Tongzhou: 6056 2804

Shunyi: 8149 2992 or

13522890701

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: [weiyang@ynet.com](mailto:weiyang@ynet.com)

My friends are visiting from Denmark and we want to go to Tibet. Here are a few things I want to know. Do I need a visa? If so, how can I get one? How long does it take and how much does it cost? We plan to travel by train and fly back. How much does a train ticket cost and how can I obtain it easily, because I do not want to wait a long line at the railway station.

As a non-Chinese, you can get a Tibet permit through a travel agency. Try Leo Hostel's permit service, which costs around 500 yuan. Their phone number is 8660 8923 or 6303 1595. You can also try the Tibet Tourism Bureau at the Oriental Kenzo Plaza at Dongzhimen, Tel: 8447 6503. Train tickets cost about 1,200 yuan for soft sleeper and 800 yuan for hard sleeper. It's better to ask the train ticket agency for the booking. You can find a train ticket agency easily in many residential areas. Generally speaking, a Tibet permit takes about seven days to process. You can get a bargain price by joining a tour group. You can book flights easily through [ctrip.com](http://ctrip.com) or [elong.com](http://elong.com).

My friends told me that buying stuff online in China in fact can be much cheaper than in the stores, like at [dangdang.com](http://dangdang.com) and [joyo.com](http://joyo.com) or [taobao.com](http://taobao.com). But I am still concerned and wondering which website has the best reputation.

They all seem OK. *Beijing Today* staff prefers buying books from [dangdang.com](http://dangdang.com) over [joyo.com](http://joyo.com) because [dangdang.com](http://dangdang.com) is even cheaper and they prefer buying clothes from [taobao.com](http://taobao.com) the most. However, we did get some things of poor quality. You cannot return clothes and ask for a refund. Each website has detailed regulations for its online business. It's better to read carefully paying for an article.

I am looking for places that sell fitness or bodybuilding supplements like protein powder. It seems that my Chinese friends have little faith in them.

Worldhealthstore.com seems to have a good reputation among the expat communities. You can find western products there easier than in a Chinese store.

I am really into getting myself a motorcycle in Beijing. Do you know how I can do that? Do I need a motorcycle license?

According to the Beijing Traffic Management Bureau, they are cutting off motorcycles in town. Therefore, they are not accepting any new motorcycle license applications. Despite this, you will see many *laowai* riding motorcycles here. Some of them are illegal.

(By Wei Ying)



# One Planet, One People

## Shedding light on the Olympics

By Han Manman

After a year and a half of work on his "8 plus 1" project The Planets, Joscelyne

### Lighting up in Beijing

"To communicate with the Beijing government is not an easy job, especially for an expat," Joscelyne said, speaking about culture differences and barriers. "It took me a year and half to get permission."

Utilizing his computer, Joscelyne showed his work to the Beijing Olympic Committee. With charming background music, the demonstration shows five stories of his project: "Evolution" is all about the birth of a nation, "Civilization" shows the great civilization of the planet, "Environment" is the story that he loves the most, the fourth one is "Monumental Human Achievement," which is all about human design, and the final piece is called "Olympic spirit." "When they saw my work, they loved it very much," Joscelyne said proudly.

He gave a motto for the project, "One Planet, One People, One Universe," in 2001 when he conceived the idea. "Months later, I heard about Bei-

jing's Olympic theme - 'One World, One Dream.' It was a coincidence!"

The project will be launched on August 1 in Beijing's 25 main parks and other sites including Xidan Culture Square, Chaoyang Park, the Millennium Monument, the Temple of Heaven and will end up at the Olympics' closing ceremonies. "That will be a very special day. When the moon slides in front the sun, when all Beijing goes dark, my works will light up Beijing. People will be able to see the beauty of the planet," Joscelyne said.

Joscelyne said he is preparing for a big project now, "For the first time in history, we are going to tie two cities together at the Games' closing ceremony, London and Beijing. When the torch is handed over and the flame goes out, we will turn off all the globe lights in Beijing and turn on all the lights in London. I've been to London twice to discuss it with them."

### Globe types

**Painted globes:** all globes exteriors are hand-painted. They are an exhilarating spectacle throughout the day and a hypnotic color-changing experience at night. Painted globes allow guests and spectators to walk around the planets and experience the beauty of the solar system up close and in person.

**The digital internal projection globes:** they feature 360-degree projection onto the entire surface or a 360-degree screen. This is an original design and Joscelyne has put together different components to create a spectacular new and hi-tech image. It will look like a giant marble ball with moving images. All projections will be shown through three different systems. Special software will be used to alter the images to prepare them for projection, projectors, and a special lens to cast the images 180 degrees to make up the 360-degree projections. Of course, this will only work at night.

**Walk-through globes:** operating 24 hours a day, walk-through globes maximize viewer interaction and effects for customer events, products and services. Internal projections displayed across dome ceilings and walls allow spectators to become part of the message and visual presentation. People can walk inside the globes. "We plan to stage some children's competitions inside them. For example, we can display their pictures on the large screen and then invite the youngsters to come inside and find their picture. Everyone can see how it works and add his own signature."

### Inspiration

Joscelyne worked as an artistic director in Australia before 2001, when he turned his focus to the "8 plus 1" project.

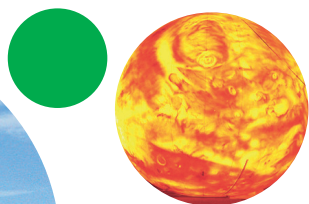
"I went to the Sydney Observatory one day, and the head scientist challenged me to come up with a concept to show the beauty of the earth and to raise people's awareness to protect the environment," Joscelyne said.

At that time, he was invited to NASA to organize an exhibition. He was struck with the idea, "Why can't I create some planets combined with light and high technology to show their beauty," Joscelyne said.

"As every country has different thoughts about the planets, I started to travel around the world to familiarize myself," Joscelyne said. At the end of his trip, he chose Beijing as the premier venue for his project simply because of the Olympics. "It will be the biggest celebration of the earth and a great opportunity to show how great the planet is when the whole world is watching at that special time."

The preparatory year was not an easy time. "When you want to do something like this, it's not easy to explain the concept, how I would build it and why I would choose to use high technology." He experienced down times. "I ran out of money, people were all saying 'No, no, no. It is crazy.' Your family is telling you no, your friends are telling you no. They didn't understand why I didn't stick to my regular job and why I was running out of money on this project, but you wake up every day and persist."

It took him six years, and now the 'planets' are under development and testing.





# People, One Universe

Waiting, Australian designer Matthew Joscelyne, three-time Olympic participant, got BOCOG's permission last week to launch nets, which will feature giant realistic globes of the nine planets and the sun in Beijing during the Beijing Olympics.

"All I want to accomplish with my work is to tell people how beautiful our planet is. I want to raise people's awareness to protect our living environment by changing the way they think about our planet."

## Traveling green life

Twenty years of traveling changed Joscelyne a lot and transformed him into a "confirmed environment protector."

When I was in America in 2001, I met an angel, involved in a project called 'Heal The Bay.'" Matthew saw her clean up all the garbage in the wetlands and marshlands as she knew if she didn't do this, the place would become a desert. "Later on, she established the

Heal The Bay Foundation. Then, I realized how important it was to keep the globe green. I saw how it worked and truly believed that amazing people can do amazing things. As a result of my observations, I became very active and involved in environmental protection activities."

At 42, Joscelyne is still single. "You never know what or who is around the corner. You never know what will

## 8 plus 1 conception

8 Plus 1 is a global concept. It is a celebration of the beauty of the earth. Joscelyne and his team use light to create landmark exhibitions and events that educate, inspire and entertain.

8 Plus 1 is now an official part of the culture and ceremonies program for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and will be participating in the Beijing Olympic Games from August 8 to 24 and the Paralympic Games, September 6 to 16.

It is the first foreign creative project to be included in BOCOG's plan and one of the only approved outdoor cultural programs to be used during the Olympics.

happen next. Maybe I will meet a Chinese girl, I keep looking."

Joking that he is only 25, he is keen to attend various fashion parties in Beijing. "I do love going out, I do love to party." Beijing for him is also a special place. "A lot of places in China have been influenced by other cultures, but Beijingers insist on keeping the city original and 100 percent Chinese."

## Matthew Joscelyne

Lighting designer, technician and founder of 8 Plus 1, Joscelyne has been involved in the large-scale public entertainment industry for the past 20 years. He has been part of some of the world's most spectacular events: Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games, Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games, Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Handover Ceremony Hong Kong 1997. He currently serves as the founder and creative director of 8 Plus 1 Global.



Matthew Joscelyne's works aim to show the beauty of the planet  
Photos provided by Matthew Joscelyne



# Style of Singaporean literature

By Gan Tian

A breeze of literature blew in with Singapore Season China 2007 last month, and 11 Singaporean writers had the opportunity to share their works and opinions last Friday at the Anniversary Hall of Beijing University.

The forum, called the Singaporean Literature Talk, drew Wong Yoon Wah, 66, Edwin Nadason Thumboo, 74, Wong Meng Voon, Dan Ying, Yeng Pway Ngan, 60, Chua Chee Lay, Xi Ni Er, 50, You Jin, Isa Kamari, Lim Denan, 44, and Han Han, 35, to share their works.

Invitees ranged from old to young authors, and represented English, Chinese and Malay writers. The wide range of writers at the session made it clear that diversity is the defining characteristic of Singaporean literature.

The Chinese-language writers had a deep understanding of China, its culture and its literature. During the readings, Dan Ying read "Lock," a poem in which she compares the locks which bind peoples hearts to the locks used in ancient Chinese homes. Chua Chee Lay, a poet, shared a new interpretation of the Chinese fable Yugong Yishan, the story of a man who moves a mountain blocking his view of a lake and moves the supreme in the process. Chua contends that today, the old man's act would be considered selfish and unreasonable, and even foolish, given how weather conditions and other people depend on the mountain.

Readings in other languages brought a diverse sound to the night. Isa Kamari read a poem in Malay to share the language's inherent rhythm. Edwin Nadason Thumboo, one of the country's most distinguished poets with four published collections, gave a presentation on the development and features of Singapore's English writing scene.

Singapore's diverse literature owes much to its historic roots. Leong Liew Geok explained it in his essay "Singaporean Literature in English: An Overview." In 1957, when Malaysia gained independence from Britain, Singapore and the Malay Peninsula were one political entity under British colonial rule. Two years later, Singapore became a self-governing colony, with the British in control of defense and foreign affairs. Their colonial history is responsible for Singapore and Malaysia's common literary origins.

Attendees heard carols, dances and songs performed by a group of Singaporean students at the Conference Room of the Anniversary Hall. Chua used his computer skills to create a graphic visual representation of the country's literary spirit.

The night was aimed at showing the charm of the country's literature, and its literary tradition as diverse as the languages in which it is rendered.



## New Irish book a Man Booker prize winner



Veronica Hegarty, 39, is a troubled woman. Most recently, she is troubled by the suicide of her brother Liam, who decided to go swimming with a pocket full of rocks.

As she begins to untangle her family's troubled

history, Veronica realizes it wasn't the drowning that killed him so much as one fateful day in his grandmother's house in the winter of 1968. Powerful, uncomfortable and, at times, angry, Anne Enright's *The Gathering* (272pp, Jonathan Cape, US \$8.40) is a saga of three generations of the Hegarty family set in England and Ireland.

At Liam's wake, a reunion with the other eight surviving Heagertys draws Veronica back into her blue-eyed, dysfunctional, hard-drinking roots.

Liam, though rarely appearing in the story, is the perfect image of self destruction. His impact on those left

behind is a reminder that there will always be people destined to disappoint themselves and others, and to check out in a most horrible way.

But Liam's bad karma isn't entirely his own fault. Throughout 45-year-old Enright's story is an emphasis on family, and the idea that, in a family, hurt can be inherited.

"I think family is a hugely interesting place, it's a place where stories happen. ... And it's also a central Irish institution," Enright told the AP after being awarded.

The family saga is an old genre, dating back at least to the *Saga of Icelanders* from whence it is named. Enright's new work gives the genre a much needed update, and her powerful prose within earned her the year's Man Booker Prize.

But more important is her message. When a loved one meets a tragic end, it's only the final chapter of their book which has been written. It's in the hands of each person they knew and each person they touched to decide how this new twist will affect one's own narrative.

Readers seeking something cheery and light should steer clear of what Enright calls the "intellectual equivalent of a Hollywood weepie." For everyone else, turn the page to a world of the author's insights into the great human experience.

### About the Author

Enright is an Irish author born in Dublin. Aside from her Man Booker Prize, she won a Rooney Prize with *The Portable Virgin* and an Encore Award for *What Are You Like?*, her second novel. To date, she has published four novels, a non-fiction book and a collection of short stories.

(By Derrick Sobodash)

## Penguin book listing

By Han Manman

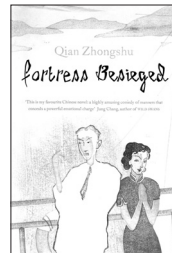
With almost a decade of experience living in Beijing, Jo Lusby, general manager of Penguin China, could be called a Chinese culture expert. A self-proclaimed bookworm, Lusby reads all of Penguin's publications. She recommends several must-read Chinese books, translated into English, which she believes will give expats a window into Chinese culture and society.

This week, she recommends three contemporary Chinese novels:

### Fortress Besieged

By Qian Zhongshu, 448 pages, 284 yuan

The title is taken from an old French proverb, "Marriage is like a fortress besieged: those who are outside want to get in, and those who are inside want to get out."



"The book was quite successful when we launched it last year. Many westerners believe Chinese contemporary novels are very serious, but Qian's work is humorous, a tragic-comedy and satire," she said.

### Red Sorghum

By Mo Yan, translated by Howard Goldblatt, 368 pages, 120 yuan

"Personally, Mo Yan is my favorite Chinese author. I have read all his works. I appreciate him not only for his elegant phrasing, but his unique stories ... The translator Howard Goldblatt has handled many famous authors' works, but he wants to be Mo Yan's translator forever. If a translator can really like and understand an author, just imagine how the translation will turn out," she said.

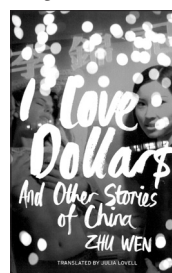


### I Love Dollars

By Zhu Wen, translated by Julia Lovell, 256 pages, 124 yuan

The English translation of this book is an upcoming release.

Zhu wrote this book during the mid to late 1990s. It is a collection of bleak, absurd tales chronicling the underside of China's miracle as experienced by young men whose lives exhibit none of the glittering promise of economic progress. In the title novella, a son haggles with prostitutes in an embarrassingly misguided attempt to entertain his visiting father.



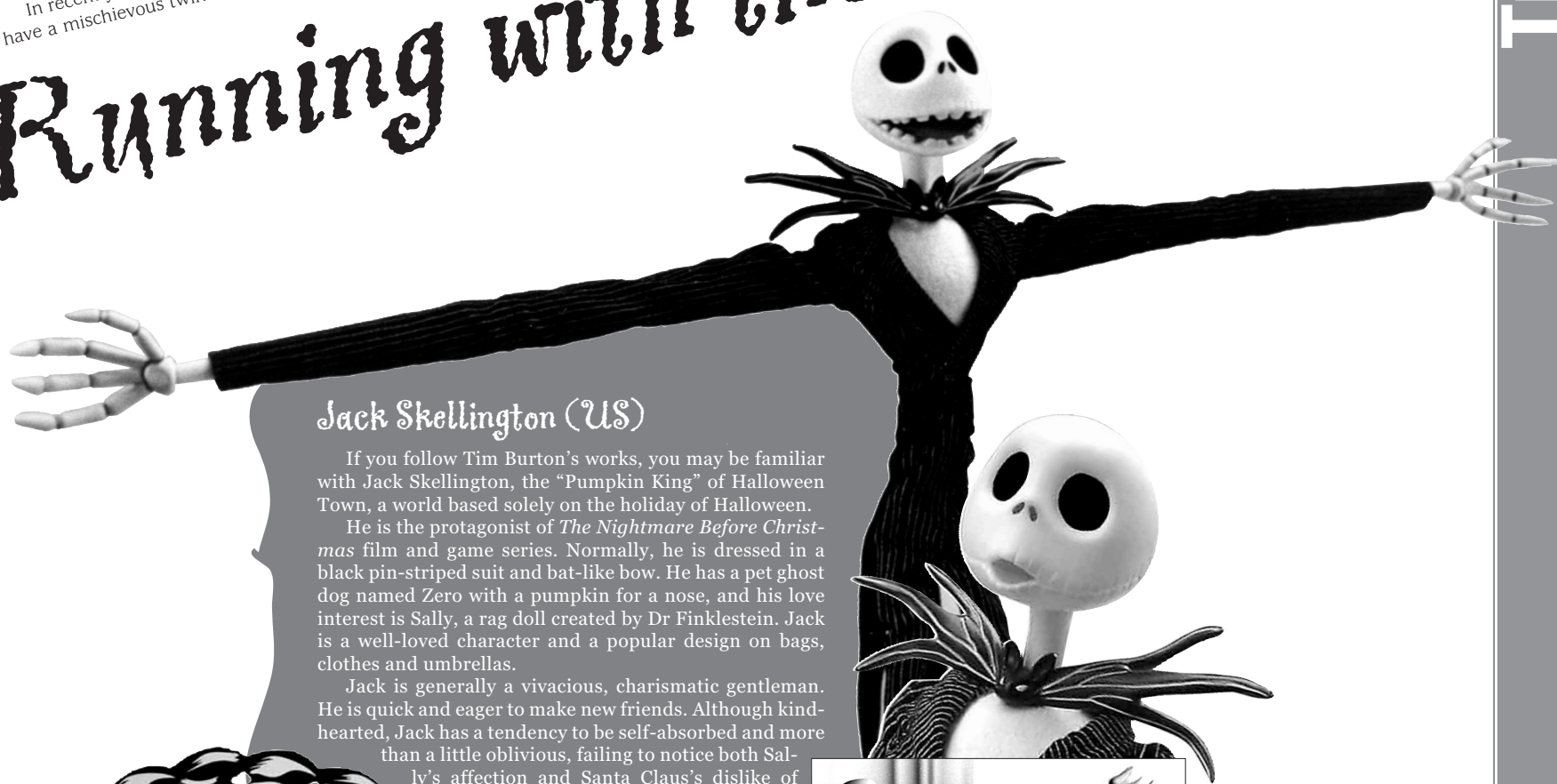


By He Jianwei

Two days ago was Halloween! Did you take a jack-o'-lantern to go trick or treating in your neighborhood? If you think trick or treating, cartoons and dolls are relegated to the realm of rugrats, you are wrong on at least one count.

In recent years, dolls have become popular with adults. These devilish dolls with disproportioned figures have a mischievous twinkle or even evil shimmer to their eyes – adult expression but child-like behavior.

# Running with the devil dolls



## Jack Skellington (US)

If you follow Tim Burton's works, you may be familiar with Jack Skellington, the "Pumpkin King" of Halloween Town, a world based solely on the holiday of Halloween.

He is the protagonist of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* film and game series. Normally, he is dressed in a black pin-striped suit and bat-like bow. He has a pet ghost dog named Zero with a pumpkin for a nose, and his love interest is Sally, a rag doll created by Dr Finklestein. Jack is a well-loved character and a popular design on bags, clothes and umbrellas.

Jack is generally a vivacious, charismatic gentleman. He is quick and eager to make new friends. Although kind-hearted, Jack has a tendency to be self-absorbed and more than a little oblivious, failing to notice both Sally's affection and Santa Claus's dislike of him. He has a tendency to become fascinated with an idea to the exclusion of all others.



## Kodyopark and the works (China)

A girl with big eyes wearing a 1980s school uniform plays games familiar to that generation. At first sight, the images of this girl look bizarre. Then taking a second look, you will find the memory of most young people in China reappearing in those images.

The images are created by Ren Qianyi, a freelance artist, under the brand Kodyopark, called Yingyefu in Chinese. "Ying means baby in Chinese. We are the generation unwilling to be an adult. Ye means to play wild. The creative thought needs to be wild and unrestrained. Fu means best wishes. I hope I can endow the energy and new life into my works," he said.

This February, Ren launched his brand to make beautiful baby faces with a dash of paranoia.

Ren exhibited his Kodyopark in August with a group of young artists in China. His unusual-looking girl pictures have attracted the most attention and become China's devil dolls.



## Yoshitomo Nara and his dolls (Japan)

Yoshitomo Nara's doll has a big head, big eyes and small body. The appearance of the dolls' eyes is Nara's trademark. Some of the doll's eyes look dull; some are full of anger and hatred. Their eyes seem to say, "What are you looking at? Leave me alone!"

Nara came to the forefront of the art world during Japan's Pop art movement in the 1990s. The subject matter of his sculptures and paintings is deceptively simple. Most works depict one seemingly innocuous subject – often pastel-hued children and animals drawn with confident, cartoonish lines – with little or no background.

But these children, who appear at first to be cute and vulnerable, brandish weapons like knives and saws. Their wide eyes often hold accusatory looks that could be sleepy-eyed irritation at being awoken from a nap or undiluted expressions of hate.

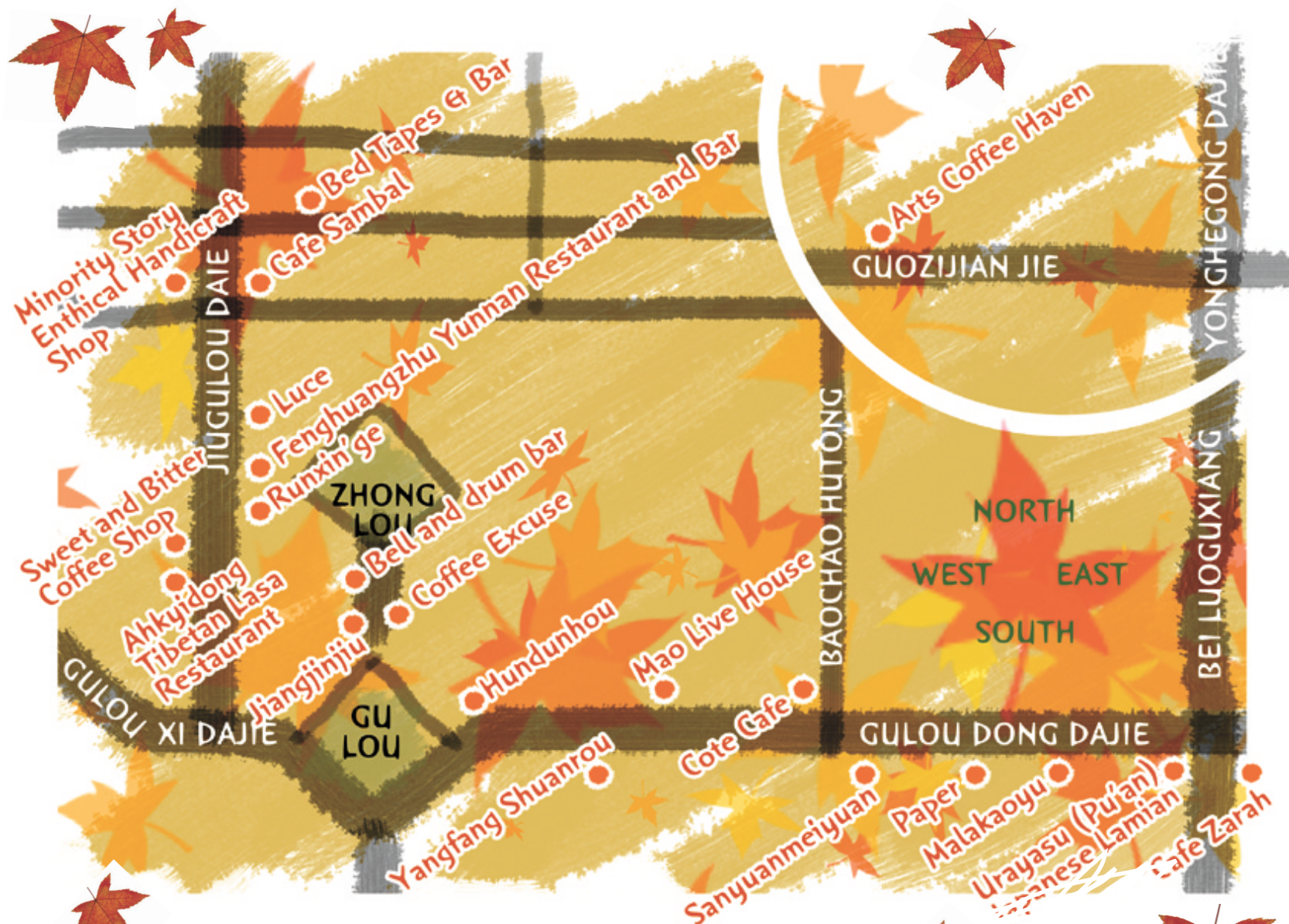
Nara's own explanation of his work casts viewers as the

aggressors guilty of betraying and attacking childhood innocence. He incriminates himself as well, for his art is above all based upon the perversion of otherwise innocent subjects.

The punk rock music of Nara's youth has also influenced his work. His work embraces that ethos, recalling a similar – if more unsettling – image of rebellious, violent youth. He has also cited traditions as varied as Renaissance painting, literature, illustration and graffiti as further inspiration.







# Renovated alley becomes new hot spot

By Annie Wei

More and more people find the "downtown" label hard to attach to a city like Beijing simply because the downtown scene is everywhere. If the World Trade Center is considered the CBD, what about the new financial street? If you think Sanlitun is totally expat territory, consider Wudaokou in Haidian.

When friends flaunt their second or third newly-acquired apartment outside fifth ring road or expensive penthouse in the newly-developed financial street, I can't identify. For a convenient lifestyle full of Beijing's unique charm, hutong living is the best choice. It's even better now, because the improved hutong area combines the old and the new.

The Gulou area is a good example. When this reporter lived there, Jiu Gulou Dajie and Gulou Dong Dajie had not started renovating. Now, both sides of Gulou Dong Dajie are packed with everything any young, single and socially-active person needs.

The area has a great mix of local and foreign elements like cafes and teahouses, cheap Beijinger Breakfast vendors and upscale restaurants, roasted fish eateries, Korean BBQs and Vietnamese restaurants. There are many other interesting stores selling shoes, toys, computer gaming accessories, fishing equipment and second-hand bicycles.

There are traffic jams all the time because the nearby Drum and Bell towers are a popular tourist spot. Gulou has some amazing treasures like the Drum and Bell Bar with a great rooftop view, Jiangjinjiu with a colorful venue for Chinese minority music shows and amateur acting and performing groups, as well as traditional Chinese clothing stores for children. It is really an enjoyable place to browse on summer nights, drink some cheap beer, chat with friends or enjoy leisure time with local residents.

In the past, Jiu Gulou Dajie was much narrower with more local vendors selling inexpensive food. The street has been expanded and widened and its new restaurants have earned a reputation for their ambience and delicate cuisine.

The Guozijian and Yonghe Temple are also peaceful and quiet escapes from hectic urban life!

Continued on page 17 ...  
Illustration by Wang Bin



...continued from page 16



Photo by Annie Wei

## Wrapped up in a Paper bag

By Annie Wei

Beijing's development continues to attract concept restaurants, like the Paper, a restaurant serving a menu of modern simplicity.

Paper opened in March and is the third restaurant and bar owned by Cho Chonggee in Gulou Dong Dajie. It serves up modern Chinese cuisine that some might call fusion. "It's still southern Chinese food with creativity, less oil and no MSG, but more seasonal organic vegetables to fill in the gaps in urban dwellers' diets," he said.

Currently, Paper has no menu. Dinners cost 150 yuan each, not including drinks and are whatever the chef is in the mood to make. Cho said the new menu will be ready within one or two weeks.

The interior is done in art deco-inspired white paper, with white upholstery, white banquettes, white walls, while table linens and frames speakers. The outside wall is black, with a narrow glass window that street-walkers can see through, but few would realize it is a restaurant inside.

For drinks, Paper has a list of imported wines and champagne, and it has a reputation for the best Mojitos in town. The exquisite taste comes from the fresh lemon and peppermint, and they are always served in a big glass.

### Paper

**Where:** 138, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

**Open:** 3 pm – midnight

**Tel:** 6405 6488



Photo by Simon Lim

## Let's go to bed

By Annie Wei

"Let's go to bed" appears on the business card of The Bed Bar.

The restaurant's style is similar to that of the Cafe Sambal. Both were designed and decorated in the space of a year. It's another traditional courtyard house with antique furniture and ambiguous ambience with a twist.

The gate comprises two wooden doors with a hanging red lantern overhead. For visitors for the first time, it is difficult to imagine what it's like inside. There are many small sub-rooms and two yards. The sub-rooms reflect the feeling of the 1970s or 1980s with big wooden beds, old-style dressing tables and a basin for a morning wash. The combination of an old Beijing house and simplicity was obviously the main theme of the owners' design.

Many people like hanging out here for drinks on quiet nights and chatting with friends. Some find it the perfect locale for after-wedding parties to impress their foreign relatives.

Still, most of the customers are expats. Some younger Chinese visitors said they liked it as a place for a quiet night, but some complained there was no parking available.

The Bed Bar does not provide any food besides Tapas, and has snacks like spring rolls or prawn rolls.

### The Bed Bar

**Where:** 17 Zhangwang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

**Open:** 2 pm – 3 am next day

**Tel:** 8400 1554

## From hutong house to renovated restaurant

By Annie Wei

Cafe Sambal, best known for its Malaysian cuisine, is Jiu Gulou Dajie's first *hutong* house turned upscale restaurant since 2002.

"Malaysian food is more accepted in western countries than in China," the owner Cho Chonggee, who hails from Malaysia and looks younger than his years, said.

Enjoy a good time for 60-70 yuan, or spend 300 yuan per person for a very rich meal. For curry lovers, Sambal is the place to go. Chili or curry crab comes highly recommended by customers, and has to be ordered one day in advance at market price. The dish is made of fresh, seasonal materials and has a very rich taste. Other top dishes include Kang Kong Belacan for 30 yuan and fresh Vietnamese rolls with prawns and herbs for 25 yuan.

Cho agrees that his design style is a bigger hit with the city's internationally-minded diners, especially expats, though the bulk of restaurant-goers may find his interior "average."

The restaurant is divided into three parts: the first has a more modern setting with a concrete bar area, white-painted walls and black leather sofa; the second is the original hutong courtyard, which is very chilly on summer nights; the third section keeps the original wood window frame of the old house, antique furniture, old pictures and ceramic vases.

This reporter's first experience with Cafe Sambal and its quirky interior came in the summer of 2003 after moving to the city. Some photographs of her in the courtyard made their way to an artist in another city who wondered why she left everything behind for life in one of Beijing's decrepit hutongs.

A real visit is all one needs to know a picture can hardly do the cafe justice, and it is anything but a decrepit hutong.

If you do not plan on making it a Malaysian night, Sambal is still a good place for appetitive or an after-dinner drink. Some regulars spend their Sunday afternoons there for tea.

### Cafe Sambal

**Where:** 43 Doufuchi Hutong, close to Jiu Gulou Dajie, Dongcheng District

**Open:** 11 am – midnight

**Tel:** 6400 4875

Photo by Simon Lim  
Continued on page 13...



...continued from page 17

## Coffee, Chinese style

By Gan Tian

Forget about the brouhaha over Starbucks in the Forbidden City! If you really want to enjoy Chinese atmosphere and coffee – that Western thing – together, you can go to the Arts Haven Coffee and Bar located near the Drum Tower.

“Small” is the key word describing this bar. Small space, small pizzas, small cups of coffee, small desserts ... but it does not stop guests from all over the world from dropping in to savor the special coffee. They use Illy Coffee beans so the scent can tickle your nose hairs miles away.

The Japanese-style desserts here are worth a try. Order sweet Japanese tofu in a bowl – small, of course – for a delightful white tofu with red peanuts buried inside. After you take a bite, the sweet tofu will slide into your stom-

ach almost unnoticed. It's that smooth!

Its special location offers a chance to appreciate its typical Chinese decoration: red walls, wooden chairs and tables and Chinese paintings on the wall. Savoring coffee in such an environment makes your troubles melt away. What's special here are many cats jumping, scratching, and wandering about. They won't disturb you, but they do add a unique aspect to the bar. When there aren't too many people at Guozijian Jie, relaxing in the Arts Haven And Coffee Bar for a whole afternoon is a perfect way to loosen up your busy work routine.

**Arts Haven Coffee and Bar**

**Where:** 25, Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District

**Open:** 9 am – 11 pm

**Tel:** 6405 2047



Photo provided by Arts Haven



Photo by Vivian Wong

## Coffee and beef at a reasonable price

By Annie Wei

Luce is a new, spacious and reasonably-priced Italian restaurant tucked away in Jiu Gulou Dajie.

The menu includes great Italian dishes like two eggs frittata with olive, Parmesan and tomato for 18 yuan, a two-egg omelet with mushrooms, Parmesan and tomato at 18 yuan, a roast beef fillet with balsamic reduction for 40 yuan and mixed green salsa with balsamic vinaigrette for 15 yuan. A fruit salad costs 15 yuan, and drinks like espresso, cappuccino and latte are 8, 18 and 20 yuan respectively.

While the frittata and omelets may not be too traditional, the espresso is great for its price, and the roast beef fillet with balsamic reduction is half what it costs in most restaurants.

While its entrance looks like a hutong gate, the interior is nice, spacious and simple. The first room seems like a yard from the original house, but decorated with a window roof. The table is light-colored wood with a cozy sofa and chairs.

Luce has expanded into more space and opened rooftop dining, though it is currently closed for the winter. A waitress said most diners come for dinner, and it attracts a lot of business as a party venue.

“I like this place,” a woman diner said, “The ambience is great, and it's like we booked the whole restaurant. We can talk about whatever we want and laugh loudly.” This reporter went there with her friends for a girls'-night-out and ordered two bottles of red wine, several kinds of salad and cold dishes, risotto, beef, coffee and sea bass. The bill for the night was 100 and 150 yuan per person.

A girls'-night-out is the ladies' version of boys'-night-out for highly-educated and high-paid women to talk about clothes, travels abroad, books, movies, boyfriends and ribbing the laowai men in town.

**Luce**

**Where:** 138 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng

**Open:** 10 am – midnight

**Tel:** 8402 4417

## Cafe Zarah

By Annie Wei

It is hard to miss Cafe Zarah while walking along Gulou Dong Dajie looking for a cheap meal or casually shopping.

Zarah is red, with a small table and two chairs placed outside. Sometimes, you can see young travelers living from nearby youth hostels taking a coffee break here. Sometimes, they are just locals people passing by who pause for a rest.

The shop interior has a cozy red sofa, white walls and natural wood-colored tables. Most of the tables close to the wall have network cable for laptop users.

There are no heavy meals, but simple foods like pasta, snacks, cakes, Gustomenta ice cream and coffee.

This reporter likes the coffee, especially Moccha at 28 yuan per cup. Ask the manager his brewing

secret and he will tell you it is not the making, but getting a good machine and good beans. “A good coffee machine will do most of the job for you.” Zarah used a red color GAGGAIA from Italy and Italian coffee beans.

There are lots of musical instrument stores on this street, and the famous Mao Live band puts on live shows. Cafe Zarah could fill the gallery void by hosting art exhibitions in the future. Its website, still under construction, has invited artists or people doing something creative to think about staging an exhibition here.

**Cafe Zarah**

**Where:** 42, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

**Open:** Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 11 pm, Friday and Saturday, 10 am – midnight; Sunday, 10 am – 11 pm; closed on Tuesday

**Tel:** 8403 9807

Photo by Vivian Wong  
Continued on page 19...



...continued from page 18

## Arts Coffee Haven **BEIJING TODAY**

The decor is very Chinese and it has good coffee.  
Where: 25, Guozijian Jie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 9 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6405 2047

## Cafe Zarah **BEIJING TODAY**

Where: 42, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: Monday to Thursday, 9 am – 11 pm; Friday and Saturday  
am – midnight; Sunday, 10 am – 11 pm; closed on Tuesday  
Tel: 8403 9807

## Cote Cafe **BEIJING TODAY**

A warm, cozy and small coffee shop with tasty cakes.  
Where: 125 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 11 am – midnight  
Tel: 6403 4847

## Fenghuangzu Yunan Restaurant and Bar

This restaurant offers tasty Yunnan fare. Its owners also run Jiangjinjiu bar. There are two Fenghuangzu Yunan restaurants on Jiugulou Dajie. The first is smaller and the second has two floors.  
Where: 128 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 11 am – midnight  
Tel: 6402 0227

## Jiangjinjiu

The comfortable upstairs lounge can seat a dozen people, whereas downstairs easily accommodates 30 people with music and dancing. The bar hosts concerts and impromptu jams with some brilliant musicians on weekends. Other days of the week, it offers a space for chatting and playing games.  
Where: 2, Zhonggu Hutong, Dongcheng District  
Open: noon – midnight  
Tel: 8405 0124

## Luce

Where: 138, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: noon – 1 am next day  
Tel: 8402 4417

## Mao Live House

One of the most popular venues for live music in the capital.  
Where: 111, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 4-5 am – midnight  
Tel: 6402 5232

## Minority story ethnic handicraft shop **BEIJING TODAY**

Where: 5 Qianmacang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 11:30 am – 9:30 pm  
Tel: 6403 3478

## Paper

A modern Chinese restaurant and bar, all in white.  
Where: 138, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 3 pm – midnight  
Tel: 6405 6488

## Urayasu (Pu'an) noodle restaurant

A small but cozy Japanese noodle shop with tasty, fragrant noodles. Each dish costs about 20 yuan.  
Where: 132, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 11:30 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6410 4598

## Runxing

Where: 152 Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 11 am – 1am  
Tel: 13810994659

## Sweet and Bitter coffee shop **BEIJING TODAY**

A lovely coffee shop with reasonably-priced baked goods.  
Where: 141, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 8 am – midnight  
Tel: 13718981046

## The Bed Bar

The bar has two yards.  
Where: 17 Zhangwang Hutong, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 2 pm – 3 am next day  
Tel: 13911879693

## The Drum and Bell bar

Where: 41, Zhonggulou Hutong, Dongcheng District  
Open: noon – late  
Tel: 8403 3600

## Ahkyidong Tibetan Lasa Restaurant **BEIJING TODAY**

Where: 141, Jiu Gulou Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 11 am – midnight  
Tel: 13911879693

(By Wei Ying)

**BEIJING TODAY**  
Beijing Today  
is available at  
all locations  
listed above.



# Probe the satellite launch center



The Yi people live in the village near XSLC.

Since Chang'e I was launched last Wednesday, the Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC) has become a hot spot for tourists.

The area's tourism explosion began three weeks before launch, and many tourists continue to go see it.

## Xichang Satellite Launch Center (XSLC)

The XSLC base is located at Xichang, capital of the Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan Province. More specifically, its launch center is in the mountainous area near Shaba Town, Mianning County, 60 kilometers north of Xichang.

Of all the launch centers currently open to the public, XSLC is the biggest and sports the most advanced equipment. It has launched most satellites and more models than any other launch center in China, and is the only one to launch with low-temperature fuel and Geosynchronous Satellite.

XSLC was constructed in 1970 and began operating in 1982. In 1984, it launched its first telecommunications satellite. To date, it

has launched 28 satellites. Six areas for satellite launch tests, direction and control, follow-up and surveillance, communications, weather inspection and daily service are scattered about the valley.

The 76-meter-high launch tower and lightning tower lift are at the bottom of the valley. Three sides of the center are bounded by mountains with only one entrance to the southeast.

### Virtual tour

Heading north from Xichang you can see sky, mountains and colorful farmlands. When you enter a gorge, you'll be near the base. As it narrows, the tour bus turns off and down a special road to head to the launch center.

At the end of 1969, when an aviation team

began scouting for a suitable satellite launch center, the Yi people, who had just escaped slavery, lived in the area and lacked even the most basic technology. Torches were the evening light source rather than light bulbs. When flames shot into the evening sky in 1984 at XSLC's first launch, they were confused and shocked.

"I never saw such a big torch! It was so bright, and it could fly," said a 76-year-old Yi man, recalling that night.

Since then, the scene has been a reoccurring one for locals. In the mountainous area today, most families now have access to satellite television and the Internet, brought to the area to meet the needs of the center.

The launch frame, direction and control hall, rocket workshop and technology park

are open to visitors. The frame consists of 11 platforms and various cables.

When preparing for a launch, staff head to the technology park not far from the launchpad. The white buildings, hidden in the green forest, are where satellites are prepared and tested, and contain one of the most advanced workshops in China. You can visit the park to see a real carrier rocket, the Changzheng 3. The direction and control hall features aviation technical equipment.

When the first satellite launched in 1984 was publicly broadcast, officials, technicians and journalists from 20 countries and regions witnessed the launch. To date, the center has admitted delegations from as many as 50 countries and regions. More than half a million domestic visitors have seen the facilities.

**Admission:** 50 yuan per person

**Traffic:** Trains run directly to Xichang from Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming in Yunnan, Xi'an in Shanxi and Beijing. Flights are only available in Chengdu, Kunming and Guang-

zhou. Take a bus from the station by rail or air in Xichang to get to the launch center. The trip takes about 20 minutes.

**Accommodations:**  
Huazhong Hotel

Where: Fengqing Bei Lu, Chengnan Dajie, Xichang

Tel: 0834-8886 888

Kaililai Hotel

Where: 88, Shengli Lu, Xichang

Tel: 0834-3200 888

Shunhua Hotel

Where: Located at the end of Haihe Qiao, Chang'an Nan Lu, Xichang

Tel: 0834-2507 686

(By Jackie Zhang)

Nearby villagers can see the buildings and launch towers in XSLC clearly.



CFP Photos

## Lufthansa introduces online virtual tour

Lufthansa German Airlines is continuing to expand its convenient services for customers in China. The latest service is an exclusive online virtual tour of its products and services. The interactive website [lufthansa.com/flyeurope](http://lufthansa.com/flyeurope) has been created exclusively for China. The virtual tour uses Chinese flight attendant Lily to introduce users to Lufthansa's in-flight and ground services. Lily escorts visitors through the airline's products and services, providing visitors with the ability to click and learn more about Miles and More, Lufthansa's Frequent Flyer Program, its state-of-the-art fleet,

superb Chinese in-flight catering service and extensive selection of Chinese entertainment programs and native-language Welcome Service upon arrival at Frankfurt and Munich airports to ensure a smooth arrival for Chinese passengers.

The virtual tour complements the airline's official website [lufthansa.com](http://lufthansa.com) to make online booking easier. Users can find Lufthansa's shortest connections from China's four gateways to the top 15 cities in Europe. If users want to make reservations while browsing, they can click to go to the reservation page directly.



# Greenwich Village, time-honored home of arts and letters

## Home of Bohemians

A Columbian University professor and I made an enlightening and fact-finding tour of Greenwich Village to explore American culture and the country's way of life.

Bounded in the north by 14th Street, on the south by Spring Street and running west from Broadway, the village is a triangle-shaped district formerly haunted by artists and men of letters – bohemian and radical.

At its entrance is a huge, plain cement wall painted with graffiti and the markings of counter-culture, drawings that smacked of a rebellious spirit. The village is primarily a residential neighborhood. New York University, in the village, has been home to some of the world's most famous writers and artists including Henry James, Edith Wharton, Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, Walt Whitman, Eugene O'Neill, Norman Rockwell, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko and Willem de Kooning. It was also the birthplace of the Beat Generation.

Greenwich Village is considered the center of American literary and art renaissance. It was home to experimental American theater and off-Broadway acts. Sidewalk art shows persist to this day.

Bob Dylan, Jack Kerouac, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Dylan Thomas loitered on the narrow streets after finishing road trips in wild America. Its tree-lined avenues retain an ambiance of yesteryear's bohemianism, still felt in the fabled coffeehouses and bars that border historic Washington Square Park.

## Haven of contemporary art

If you are seeking the kind of contemporary art found locally in 798 art district, head for the New Museum of Contemporary Art. Founded in 1977, it is one of the major contemporary art museums in New York City, and is among the most influential internationally. The Museum displays pieces from around the world, and offers public programs, a unique bookstore and an extensive website.

The New Museum, down the block from the Guggenheim Soho, is a stone building with carved ionic columns and arches over big, sunny floor-to-ceiling windows.

The gallery space is a long narrow room that has been divided into several smaller cubicle-like spaces. The dividing walls, along with the wide columns that segment the gallery, produce an unusual effect. Although individual rooms feel quite small, the number of rooms makes the gallery seem to stretch like a maze of art.

The type of artwork on display at the New Museum is unusual, abstract work beyond ordinary understanding. This museum is aimed at serving professionals with the necessary background to appreciate the odd styles and symbolism which dominate. The museum takes one to two hours to explore.

The Guggenheim Museum Soho, designed by Arata Isozaki, is located in a brick building with an imposing facade on the corner of Broadway and Prince. It was opened to the public in June 1992. Despite its terrific name so closely related with museums of art, the Guggenheim Soho is very



Sculpture of workers in Soho

By Shida Zhu

In his trilogy USA, John Dos Passos described radical Greenwich Village with, "Washington Square! Conventional turns out to be a cuss-word; Villon seeking a lodging for the night in the Italian tenements on Sullivan Street, Bleecker, Carmine."

Greenwich Village has always been linked with big and controversial writers and artists, posing an ever-growing lure of modernism and cynicism to New York visitors.



Soho art shop



Graffiti along a street in Soho

Photos by Pbase.com

small; its first floor has been colonized by stores, and the museum itself is only the top floor.

The second floor gallery is an open space with large windows and lots of sunlight. The interior design follows the same fancy style as the brick exterior, with a marble-walled entrance, wood-paneled elevators and gilded ceilings. Since admission is free, anyone can walk in off the street and not feel out of place or under-dressed. The museum has hosted several exhibitions to wide acclaim, including the works of Bill Viola, Paul Klee, Robert Rauschenberg and Marc Chagall.

The permanent exhibit is Andy Warhol's series of paintings, The Last Supper. Though such modern art may be difficult for people to appreciate, a tour to quench your curiosity is still worthwhile.

**Getting there:** take subway 1, 9 to Christopher Street-Sheridan Square for West Village; A, B, C, D, E, F or V to West 4th Street or N or R to 8th Street for Greenwich Village. F or V to Broadway-Lafayette Street; N or R to Prince Street; C or E to Spring Street.



Soho stairs

## Trendy Soho

Heading south on Broadway, you can find an incredible assortment of contemporary art in the Soho art district. Soho is south of Houston, north of Canal Street and between the Hudson River and Lafayette Street on the west side of Manhattan. It is famous for its galleries and shops which line narrow streets.

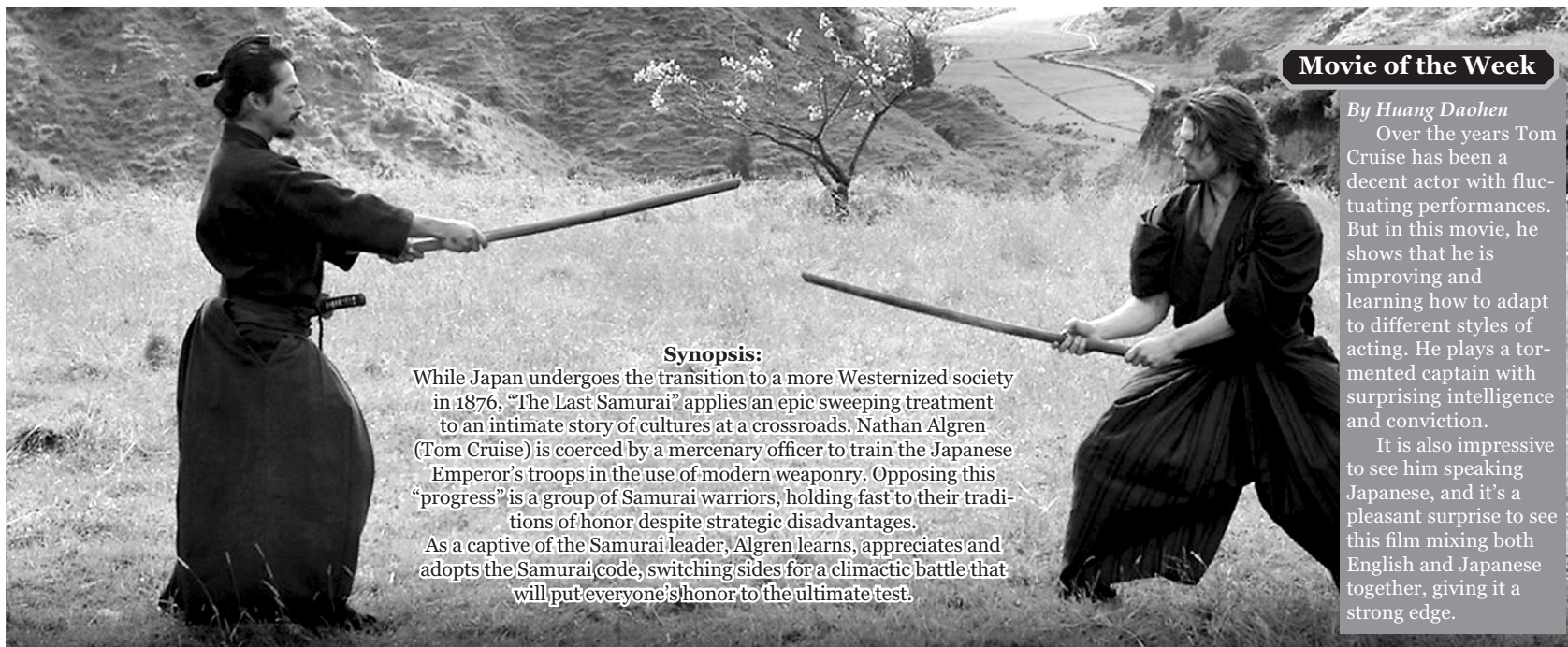
Soho is an acronym for "south of Houston Street," a nod to its location. The eclectic neighborhood had a long history before becoming New York City's art haven.

The district's cast-iron warehouses and cobblestone-covered streets were deserted by New Yorkers in the 1850s when the residential population moved uptown. The buildings began to house fabric and glass manufacturing firms and companies like Lord & Taylor and Tiffany's. The lower floors were designed for displays and became perfect for galleries.

By the late 1900s, the fashionable businesses moved uptown and the area developed into a seedy, sweatshop-filled slum known as "hell's hundred acres." New labor laws forced the sweatshops to evacuate, leaving Soho a ghost town. In the 1960s, artists quietly moved in. Within a decade, it was transformed into a residential, commercial and artistic zone – an art community.

Little Italy, also in its vicinity, is centered around Mulberry Street from Spring Street to Canal Street in Manhattan. The narrow streets are packed with New York's best Italian restaurants and cafes.





## Movie of the Week

By Huang Daohen

Over the years Tom Cruise has been a decent actor with fluctuating performances. But in this movie, he shows that he is improving and learning how to adapt to different styles of acting. He plays a tormented captain with surprising intelligence and conviction.

It is also impressive to see him speaking Japanese, and it's a pleasant surprise to see this film mixing both English and Japanese together, giving it a strong edge.

**Synopsis:**  
While Japan undergoes the transition to a more Westernized society in 1876, "The Last Samurai" applies an epic sweeping treatment to an intimate story of cultures at a crossroads. Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) is coerced by a mercenary officer to train the Japanese Emperor's troops in the use of modern weaponry. Opposing this "progress" is a group of Samurai warriors, holding fast to their traditions of honor despite strategic disadvantages. As a captive of the Samurai leader, Algren learns, appreciates and adopts the Samurai code, switching sides for a climactic battle that will put everyone's honor to the ultimate test.

# The Last Samurai (2003)



## Scene 1: Cabin, day

(In the main cabin, Algren sits with Gant and Omura. Algren is drinking)

**Omura:** After the Shogun <sup>(1)</sup> gave up power, the daimyos <sup>(2)</sup>, you would call them warlords, knew that Japan needed a centralized government. So they asked the hereditary <sup>(3)</sup> Emperor, His Highness the Enlightened Meiji, to lead the country.

**Algren:** And these warlords just gave up hundreds of years of power?

**Omura:** Economic incentives were offered. Most provincial leaders saw the financial benefits of modernization.

**Algren:** What about those that didn't?

**Omura:** To deal with those who have resisted, the Emperor has decided to create an Army with allegiance only to him.

## Scene 2: Bar, Omura is together with Colonel Bagley

**Omura:** He is insolent.

**Bagley:** Get him in front of the troops, you'll see. Top of his class at West Point. Brilliant tactician <sup>(4)</sup>. Even wrote a book.

**Omura:** Why did he leave your army?

**Bagley:** What's a hero to do when there are no more great battles?

**Omura:** Is that an evasive answer?

**Bagley:** Sir, this man was left for dead at Sutter's Hill. Doctors swore his heart had stopped beating, but before they could bury him, he came back to life. Point him at the enemy. He was born for it.

## Scene 3: Ship, day

(Algren and Gant stand at the rail)

**Gant:** I hate boats. If the Lord wanted man to sail he wouldn't have created infantry <sup>(5)</sup>.

**Algren:** How many rhymes are you going to puke <sup>(6)</sup> today?

**Gant:** I'm down to two.

**Omura:** I understand you are a scholar, Captain Algren.

Have you read his book, Mr. Gant?

**Gant:** Can't say I have.

**Omura:** An analysis of the triumph of weapons technology over antiquated military tactics.

**Algren:** A real page-turner. Sold twelve copies.

**Omura:** Nonetheless, I was impressed. I enjoy reading military history. I spent two years studying English at Princeton University.



**Katsumoto:** To know my enemy.

**Algren:** If I am your enemy, why have you not killed me?

(Katsumoto doesn't answer)

**Algren:** Was General Yoshitaka your enemy?

**Katsumoto:** No, I honor his memory as my kinsman <sup>(8)</sup>.

**Algren:** That's why you helped him kill himself?

**Katsumoto:** If a Samurai

is defeated in battle, he must take his own life to spare himself the shame of capture. It is required that his *kaishaku*, his trusted friend, help him. I was honored to be his *kaishaku*.

## Scene 5: Katsumoto's house, night

(Katsumoto is arranging flowers. Algren watches in confusion)

**Katsumoto:** I do not fight the emperor. I fight those who seek to influence him, those who betray the soul of my country.

(He slowly draws his long Samurai sword, and places it next to the flowers on the table in front of him. Katsumoto looks at Algren)

**Katsumoto:** The Emperor gave this blade to my ancestors 400 years ago. It has been used only to defend his sacred honor.

(Katsumoto hands the sword to Algren. Algren studies it.)

**Katsumoto:** It takes many years to make a sword. It is a holy Act. A Samurai's sword is his soul.

**Algren:** This sword is flawed. What is this uneven line near the edge?

**Katsumoto:** One man is flexible and compromises too much to avoid conflict.

Another man is so fierce he wins every battle, but so rigid he can never know peace. A man who knows both is the perfect warrior. The same is true of a blade: one steel

bends, and the other cuts. And where they meet is never perfect. Hold the blade up.

(Algren holds the sword, cutting edge up)

**Katsumoto:** Some believe a blade is thirsty until it tastes the blood of its enemy.

(Silence)

## Scene 6: The quiet evening continues at Katsumoto's house, night

**Katsumoto:** So my hair will have a pleasing scent when I meet my ancestors. You do not do this?

(Algren smiles, sits)

**Algren:** I studied war at a place called West Point. They taught us about a battle called Thermopylae. Three hundred brave warriors held off the king of Persia's army of a million men. For two days they made them pay so dearly that the king lost all appetite for further invasion (looks at him). I have some thoughts about the battle tomorrow.

**Katsumoto:** Do you really think we can defeat them?

**Algren:** I sure as hell want to find out.

**Katsumoto:** You believe a man can change his destiny?

**Algren:** No. But I think a man cannot know his destiny. He can only do what he can, until his destiny is revealed.

(A silent beat)

## Vocabulary

1. **Shogun:** a hereditary military dictator of Japan, who ruled Japan until the revolution of 1867
2. **Daimyo:** A feudal lord of Japan who was a large landowner
3. **Hereditary:** inherited by established rules of descent
4. **Tactician:** a person who is skilled at planning tactics
5. **Infantry:** an army unit consisting of soldiers who fight on foot
6. **Puke:** ejecting the contents of the stomach through the mouth
7. **Bushido:** the traditional code of the Japanese samurai, stressing honor, self-discipline, bravery and simple living
8. **Kinsman:** a male relative



**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

# Maiden, not virgin

By He Jianwei

Last week, my friend Robbie Zhang took a business trip to Yangzhou, Jiangsu Province. On his return, he sent me a short message saying that, "It was an exciting virgin trip and I learned a lot." I doubted that he enjoyed any romance during his trip, since he worried a lot beforehand about his business meeting.

"It is my first time to go on a business trip. I'm not sure whether I can complete the job successfully this time," Zhang said. This was his first job since graduating last year, and he regarded this trip as a good opportunity to earn more work experience.

I asked him what happened on his so-called "virgin" business trip. He said many things took place for the first time. "It was my first airplane flight. And most importantly, I negotiated with my counterpart and we signed a letter of intent making this the first time I ever negotiated with any one face to face," he said.

Suddenly, I understood what he meant by a "virgin trip," but I still found myself a little perplexed.

In Chinese, we usually use the term, *chunu* (virgin), to describe things that people do for the first time. For instance, some of my friends really care about who is the first person to read a new book or magazine. They dub it, "virgin reading." If you need to tell me it's funny, then it isn't.

However, we cannot say virgin trip, virgin flight or virgin voyage in English. I consulted my best friend, my dictionary, at the end of the conversation with Zhang. In English, virgin is used to describe something fresh, unspoiled or unchanged by human activity. It gave some examples such as, "no footprints on the virgin snow," and "America is virgin territory as far as our company is concerned."

To express the idea of doing things for the first time, "maiden" is a proper word to use. Maiden is an adjective that means, "first of its kind or earliest." We can use this expression in the following sentences. "The airplane makes its maiden flight tomorrow," or "The new MP is making her maiden speech in Parliament tomorrow."

So, the trip to Yangzhou was Zhang's maiden business trip.



## Chinglish on the way

By Derrick Sobodash

It's a pretty bold move to name one's product The Way of Anything, but more so when that product is Gui Ling Gao — a small container of tar-like, black gelatinous foodstuff.

While not a product name, the placement of "The Way Of Taste" certainly makes it look like one. It seems manufacturer Hong Kong's Zhi Zhong He was thinking in Chinglish from top to bottom.

"The Way Of Taste" ends in *shuoming*, which means explanation. They were likely aiming for "How to Eat" since the rest of the packaging deals with ways to get it open and doctor up the goo.

In fact, the translators render "eat" as "taste" in every instance, "Use the gear of the

spoon to cut the cover along the edge of the plastic cup, then you can taste it." Wow, gas food you can taste by inhaling. Why hasn't CNSA thought of this? Sorry, you have to put it in your mouth before you can taste it.

Also, the "gear" of the spoon isn't a gear. A gear is a toothed disc which turns to move other toothed discs. Check inside any non-digital clock for an example of gears. A better way to describe that part of the spoon would be to call it the "jagged edge" or "jagged handle." Jagged perfectly describes those sharp notches for cutting.

With accent marks and one letter swapped, "Especial indication" could almost be Spanish. "Warning" would do just fine here, and the Chinglish column has covered such mes-

sages many times.

Lastly, "The vogue food method." Somehow, I doubt this line has much to do with Madonna, or with the trendy Beijinger ways to eat this stuff. These are just helpful tips on how to doctor it up and make it more palatable.

The suggestions are fine until the last line, "Marinate it in boiled water for ten minutes." Marinate is a very specific cooking term which means to tenderize and flavor by placing food in an acidic liquid, like vinegar. Since readers will only use boiled water and soak the food while in the container, it would be better to say, "Submerge it in hot water for ten minutes."

Then again, it could be correct. When was the last time they pH tested Beijing's water?

## The way of taste

### Blacklist

*Beijing Today* has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

### Local professor Zhu Dashi

#### 1. Doubted that they were stating their real age

When you use "doubt," the attributive clause of the object should not be led by the word, "that." It would be better to say: "He doubted whether they were stating their real age." Another example would be, "The captain doubted whether the leaking ship would reach land."

#### 2. Premier and premiere

Premiere is a French word indicating a first public performance. Don't be confused with the word "premier" which means prime minister.

#### 3. There have many stowaways.

If you use the word "there" as the subject of your sentence, you have to say "there are" instead of "there have." So, it is always "There are many stowaways."

### Native speaker Joe Edwards

#### 1. Doubted that they were stating their real age

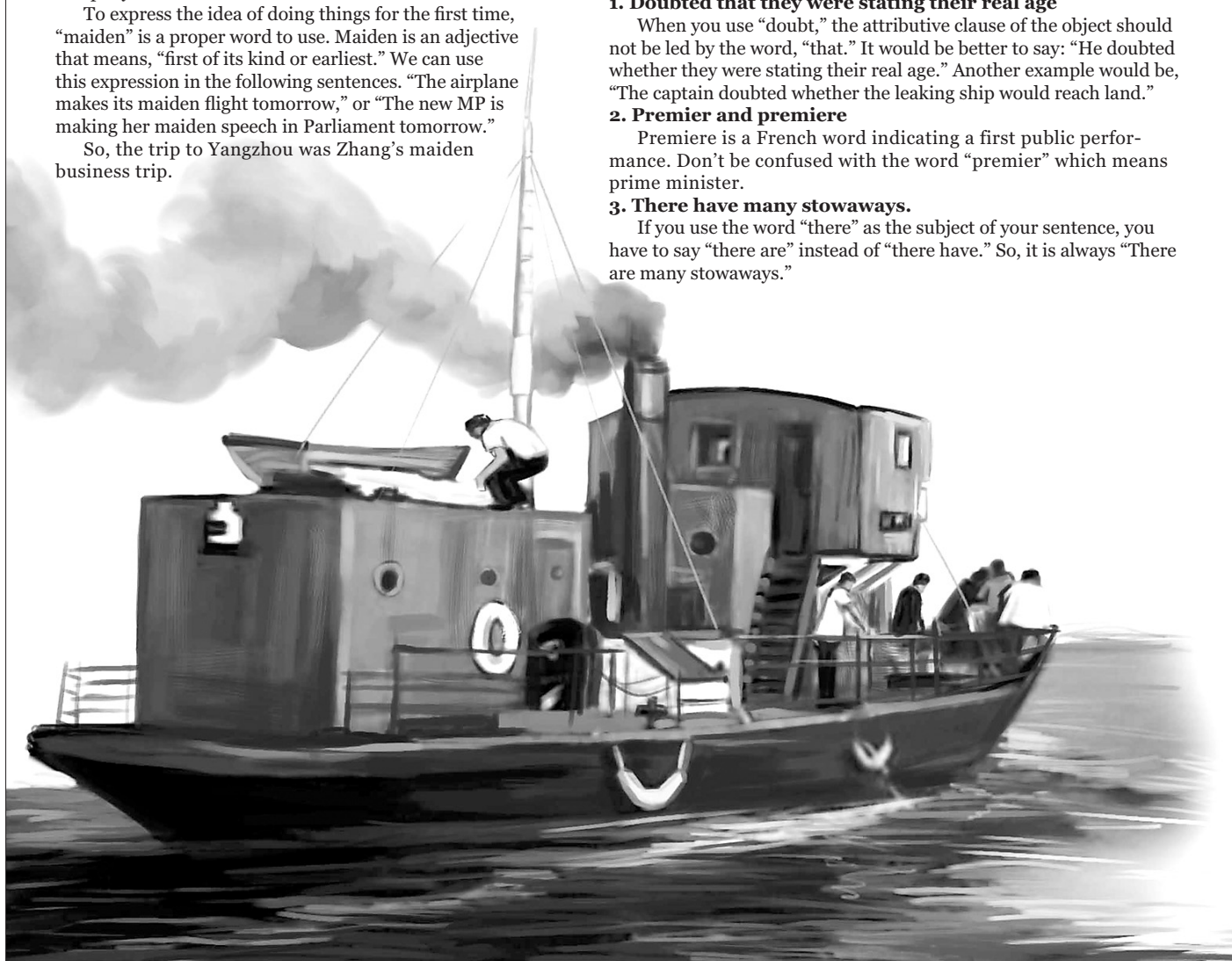
When in doubt, leave it out! A good rule to follow and, in this case, you must leave out the word, "that," and replace it with, "whether," when dealing with the verb, "doubt." Another example, "He doubted whether the story was true." If you follow my advice, I doubt whether you will have any further doubts about doubting my advice. No doubt about it.

#### 2. Premier and premiere

Springing from the land of croissants and berets, "premiere" is of French origin and means a first public performance. Drop the last "e" and you have a completely different animal, the word, "premier" which means prime minister as in the prime minister of Canada. Don't confuse the two. The prime minister of Canada is confused enough as it is.

#### 3. There have many stowaways

If you dare to use the word, "there," as the subject of your sentence, you must regard it as a plural form and follow it with the verb, "are." Thus, the sentence should read, "There are many stowaways." "There have" is not proper English. Getting frustrated? There, there, it's gets easier.





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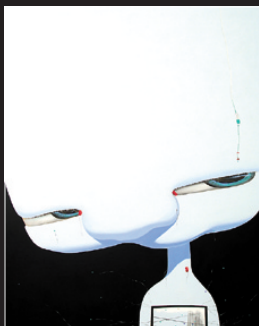
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RANCH RESORT

## Friday, November 2

### Exhibition Big Face – Wang Ke Solo Exhibition



The subjects in Wang Ke's paintings possess a vitality that reflects the personal nature of

her work. The paintings in this exhibition are the results of the artist's exploration and examination of self.

Where: Chinese Contemporary Factory 798, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 11 am – 7 pm, until November 28

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2421

### Coming from Songzhuang – Selection Work Show

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou

When: Daily 8 am – midnight, until November 30

Admission: 20 yuan

### Tel: 6959 8343 Process-Journey – Group Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until November 11

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

### Music Lonely China Day

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 pm, November 10

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8196 4820

## Sunday, November 4

### Exhibition Ma Hongyan Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Today Art Museum, Building 4, 32 Baiziwan Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5 pm, until November 12

Admission: Free

Tel: 5876 9392

### Peter Pollág Solo Exhibition



Where: Art Scene Beijing, 798 Dashanzi Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, November 15

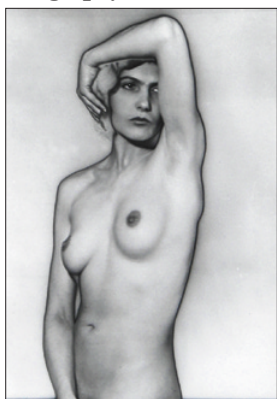
Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 6962

### Dusky journey – The Personal oil painting exhibition of He Wenbin

## Saturday, November 3

### Exhibition Works from the Permanent Collection of Three Shadows Photography Art Centre



The exhibition of the Three Shadows Photography Art Centre's permanent collection of original works from Europe, America and Japan embodies the most important values of photography art.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, 155 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until February 24

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663 ext 8008

### Urban Culture: The Flourished & Corrupted

This exhibition, divided into four parts, aims to study the eco-systems of urban culture, including consumerism, the impact of pan-entertainment culture, individual existence and the role of modern artists.



Where: Amelie Gallery, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, between Red Gate and White Space Gallery

When: Tue-Sun 11 am – 7 pm, until December 21

Admission: Free

Tel: 6530 7048

### Movie Election

Johnnie To's Election series promised from day one to be a new gold standard among Triad films and To manages to deliver an uncompromisingly realistic portrayal of the rise of a new regime to power in Hong Kong's underworld – marked by arrogant dictatorships, violent double-crossings, brutal power plays and corrosive greed – all without guns.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, inside Kent Center, Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 8 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

## Stage in December

### Music

#### Groove Coverage Beijing Concert

Who: Groove Coverage  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 2

Admission: 180-880 yuan

#### Handel Messiah by International Festival Chorus

Who: International Festival Chorus and Martin Ennis

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 8

Admission: 80-320 yuan

#### Richard Clayderman & Guoyue Tianjiao New Year Piano Concert

Who: Richard Clayderman  
Where: Great Hall of the People, on the west side of Tiananmen Square, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 27

Admission:

180-1,680 yuan

#### Imagine 2008 Olympics – London Mozart Orchestra Beijing New Year Concert

Who: London Mozart Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 30-31

Admission:

180-1,080 yuan

#### Drama Musical Jin Sha

Who: Directed by San Bao  
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

December 28-29

Admission:

80-880 yuan

#### Dance Moscow Theater Ballet Troupe China Tour

Who: Moscow Theater Ballet Troupe  
Where: Minorities Cultural Palace Theater, 49 Fuxingmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 21-24

Admission:

80-880 yuan

#### Tap Dance Christmas Shoes

Who: Chicago American Stamp Champion Team  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,

December 21-23

Admission:

80-1,280 yuan

#### Madame Butterfly by Northern Ballet Theater

Who: Northern Ballet Theater  
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,

December 21-23

Admission:

120-1,680 yuan

(By Li Jing)